CNMI to receive 100 J&J doses. PAGE 2
IPI receivership extended again. PAGE 3

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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 56

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY MARCH 22, 2021 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Furloughed govt workers fully restored to 80 hours

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Effective date starts pay period beginning March 28, 2021

A total of 180 government employees that have been furloughed have been reinstated to their jobs, thanks to the expected infusion of $515 million from the American Rescue Plan that the CNMI will get to fund government operations.

See FURLOUGHED on Page 4

Jodina Attao is NMTI's interim CEO

Jodina Attao, left, poses with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, right, for a quick shot during the executive session before she was named the interim Northern Marianas Technical Institute chief executive officer last Saturday at the NMTI office in Lower Base.
JUSTINE NAUTA

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jodina Attao is now the interim chief executive officer of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

Five of the six-member NMTI board of trustees voted yes for Attao to take on the position of interim CEO at the board's special meeting last Saturday at NMTI's facility in Lower Base. Attao went up against NMTI's former CEO Agnes McPheters, who received one vote for her to remain in the position. The board cast their votes

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OPA, OAG, DOF TO LEGISLATURE:

'Back off on CNMI's $515M pie'

Peter

Tenorio

Atalig

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor, Office of the Attorney General, and the CNMI Department of Finance have issued comments that are all unfavorable to a bill that the House of Representatives passed Friday to require legislative appropriation for about $515 million that's allocated to the CNMI for government operations under the American Rescue Plan.

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'They're our first responders'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

With the 23 Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services firefighters refusing to be inoculated with the COVID-19 vaccine, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said these firefighters are some the CNMI's first responders and it is only right for them to participate in taking the COVID-19 vaccine as part of their mandate to protect the community.

In an interview with Torres last Saturday at NMTI's board meeting, he said, "They are our first responders. They are there to protect us. We have

See RESPONDERS on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, March 21, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,780	0	7,780
Recovered	7,618	0	7,618
Active	28	0	28
Deaths	134	0	134
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			136,135

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	157	0	157
Traced via Travel Screening	121	0	121
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			6

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Saipan:	Tinian:	Rota:
Dose 1: 12,121	Dose 1: 743	Dose 1: 843
Dose 2: 9,367	Dose 2: 268	Dose 2: 357

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE

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Members of the Rotary Club of Saipan gathered for the Rotary Charter Night last Tuesday.

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Atkins Kroll announces two executive appointments to the company's leadership team.

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LIFE & STYLE
Heavy rain in southern Greece has led to the discovery of a bronze bull figurine that's 3,000 years old.

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Local

CNMI to receive 100 J&J doses

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is set to receive 100 doses of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine today, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's official site.

According to CDC, it says that the CNMI is due for another allocation of the J&J vaccine.

Additionally, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced in his e-kilili newsletter that the additional 100 doses of J&J vaccine will boost the CNMI's allocation to 600 doses this month. This is in addition to the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines that the CNMI is also getting. The Federal Drug Administration gave emergency use authorization to the J&J vaccine last Feb. 27.

"Having all three vaccines now available should speed immunization islandwide. But don't hold back waiting for your favorite. Remember: the best vaccine is the one that is available," said Sablan.

For those who are hesitant to get the vaccine, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña says she does respect the hesitation and CHCC staff will be open to guiding an individual to make that decision to get the vaccine or not.

"As the public health official, I do respect the hesitation and it's quite alright to have questions about its efficacy and its safety. So we want individuals to ask questions and get the answers they need to make an informed decision. Unfortunately, there's a lot of misinformation out there and it's important that you're getting them from a source that is accurate and proven," said Muña.

Muña added that vaccines aren't new, but it's different because of the "emergent need." She said the COVID-19 vaccines are a pathway to getting the CNMI back to the "next normal."

"We need to remember that the pandemic is not over and, with the new variants, to fight and continue to protect the CNMI, we need everyone's help to be patient, to be vigilant in practicing 3Ws, and once you're ready and have all the factual information, do get the protection of the vaccines," said Muña. "I got it because I want to protect my family, my friends, my staff, and the beautiful people of the CNMI."

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House unanimously OKs EITC bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives unanimously voted last Friday night to pass on first and final reading a bill that would repeal an existing CNMI law in order to make families eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit as a form of financial relief.

Some House members clapped their hands when Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) announced that all 20 members voted for the passage of House Bill 22-19. The bill will now go to the Senate for action.

The bill's author, Rep. Christina Marie E. Sablan (D-Saipan), thanked her colleagues for expediting action on her bill. Co-sponsored by several other lawmakers, H.B. 22-19 would restore the EITC for low-and moderate-income working families in the CNMI.

EITC is a refundable tax credit in the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code that helps qualified low-to moderate-income working families and taxpayers get a tax break by allowing them to use the credit to reduce the taxes they owe, and in some cases, increase their tax refunds.

The legislation will repeal Title 4 Section 1709 of the Commonwealth Code, which currently provides that a taxpayer who is owed a tax refund due to "any excessive credit" must pay an additional tax to the Commonwealth that is equal to 100% of the refund.

During discussion on the legislation, Sablan said the CNMI law has imposed a 100% tax on the EITC for over 20 years now, primarily because it was deemed too costly. However, she said, in the IRS Code, the EITC is a refundable tax credit available primarily to low-income U.S. citizen working taxpayers and for lawful permanent residents. Citizens of the Freely Associated States who are living and working the U.S. are also eligible.

"And because we have adopted a tax code that mirrors the IRS code pursuant to the Covenant, the EITC would apply to eligible working taxpayers in the Northern Marianas," she said.

Sablan credited the American Rescue Plan for resolving and doing away with the argument that the EITC is too costly. She said the EITC in the Marianas will be fully and permanently covered by federal funds.

"To ensure that the benefits of the EITC actually get to the pockets of our people who really need this help, we have to do our part and repeal the CNMI law that slaps a 100% tax on the EITC," Sablan said.

Saying the main benefits of the EITC is that it stimulates the economy, Sablan said the Department of Finance estimates the total value of the EITC to be approximately $25 million.

"That's money directly in the hands of people who are likely to spend it immediately to meet their basic needs and improve their lives," she said.

Sablan said the money will be a tremendous help to families who have been hit hard by recent typhoon disasters and this global pandemic.

"The money is there. Our people need it. Now it's up to us to repeal this tax, restore the EITC and get these funds to our people as soon and as quickly as possible," she said.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) offered a floor amendment to put a sunset provision on the bill to ensure that the Commonwealth would not end up funding the EITC. That floor amendment was ultimately rejected.

Sablan said she does not support the amendment because the EITC enjoys very board bipartisan support nationwide. Sablan said a review of the literature shows how popular this one policy tool is for both Republican and Democrats.

She said the late President Ronald Reagan was one of the biggest champions of EITC and so are plenty of Democrats before and after him.

Even in the CNMI, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Delegate Gregorio Kilili S. Sablan (Ind-MP), and Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) are EITC advocates, Rep. Cristina Sablan said. To insert a sunset provision or any kind or provision "that presumes, speculates on the possibility, the very, very unlikely near-impossible possibility of

See HOUSE on Next Page

IPI receivership extended again

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The receivership proceedings of Imperial Pacific International Holdings, Ltd. and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC was given another extension, this time for another four days.

In an order last March 12, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona first allowed IPIH and IPI's receivership to be extended to March 19 at 1:30pm but this was again extended last Friday to March 23.

Manglona gave IPI and IPIH's receiver, Joyce Tang, another four days to not take action on the sale of IPI's assets until tomorrow, March 23, at 1:30pm.

Manglona said the order appointing the receiver and setting the terms of the receivership have been modified so that the receiver won't take action in the sale of assets until this Tuesday. Tang also agreed that she would not take action until then.

IPIH chair Cui Li Jie had until last March 12 to pay the U.S. Department of Labor a total that was said to exceed $10 million owed from a consent judgment issued two years ago. All parties—IPIH, IPI, and USDOL—have been communicating with each other about the extension of the receivership.

According to court documents, USDOL Wage and Hour investigators have been examining the payroll documents provided by IPI but required more time to determine the amount of wages due, but the parties also needed more time to complete their negotiations.

Charles Song, counsel for USDOL, said that USDOL has been communicating with Tang, who agreed to not take any action until March 23. Song said this will allow the parties more time to reach an agreement to purge contempt.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the U.S District Court for NMI appointed Tang last March 5 as receiver of IPI in a potential settlement to pay off the balance that IPI owes the USDOL in the consent judgment.

HOUSE

From Page 2

changes by the U.S. Congress is insulting."

Guerrero said he agreed with Sablan, but stated that this sunset provision is only intended to safeguard the CNMI in the event there are changes in the guard in Washington D.C. and they remove this provision.

"Is the CNMI ready to assume responsibility? Where are we going to get the funding once everything dries out? We can't even bring the tourists, our only industry, back to the CNMI. How are we going to provide this money? Yes, it is good right now, I agree, but this is just a safeguard," Guerrero said.

Ten voted "yes" to Guerrero's amendment, while 10 voted against it. Villagomez voted "no" to break the tie.

Demapan also offered a floor amendment to include a subsection to ensure that only the EITC law is being considered and does not include other excess credits outside of the EITC.

Demapan said he would like to cast the vote to restore EITC only and not the unforeseen obligations of other excess credits.

Eleven, including Sablan, voted "yes" to Demapan's floor amendment.

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OPA

From Page 1

OPA, OAG, and Finance issued their respective positions to House Bill 22-33 last Thursday and Friday after House Committee on Ways and Means chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) sought comments from these agencies. OPA said they don't have enough staff and space for this purpose; the OAG said the CNMI simply has to comply with the rules sets by the U.S. Secretary of Treasury on how to use the money, so there is no need for the CNMI to enact a law on how to use these funds; and the Finance Department said the current crisis requires flexibility to respond to needed expenditures and adjust as situations change, so adding another layer to fiscal regulation and oversight could backfire.

Under House Bill 22-33 that Manglona authored and co-sponsored by six other Democrats, the public auditor shall establish a task force to monitor expenditure of all Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund monies and report on the task force's findings to the Legislature every quarter.

Public Auditor Kina B. Peter said in order to staff this a task force, OPA would potentially need to not only double its current auditing staff but also require additional space to house the task force. She pointed out that monitoring expenses will be across many government agencies.

"The operational and capacity build up required to achieve this new mandate is not realistic," Peter said.

Deputy attorney General Lillian A. Tenorio said an enactment of a Commonwealth law is not required for the CNMI to receive funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. What is required of the Commonwealth, Tenorio said, is to comply with the procedures in Section 602(d), the use restrictions in Section 602(c), and other obligations that may be imposed by the U.S. Secretary of Treasury.

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said further authorization or appropriation for the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund of the American Rescue Plan is unnecessary.

Atalig said Finance commends the intent of this legislation to provide for additional layers of fiscal regulation and oversight, but they also recommend to the committee additional consideration to account for the ongoing crisis impacting the fiscal condition of the Commonwealth.

Atalig said the nature of this crisis, and the unknown and evolving situations that give rise to serious health and public safety concerns require flexibility to respond to needed expenditures and adjust as situations change.

In OPA's comments, Peter suggested adding provisions requiring individual agencies receiving the funds to forward reports on spending to the Legislature. Peter said each agency has bookkeepers and accountants with the skillsets to manage and report on finances.

Alternatively, Peter said, the Legislature could require the Department of Finance to track the spending and report back to the Legislature. She said the department is constitutionally mandated to control and regulate the expenditure of public funds.

Peter said OPA has serious concerns regarding their ability to meet the new mandates assigned in House Bill 22-33 because of their need to remain independent as required by their existing statutory and constitutional mandates and from a practical capacity standpoint.

She said OPA requires independence to perform its auditing functions as constitutionally-mandated and its investigatory function as required by statute.

"The more OPA becomes entangled in outside agencies or engages in other government branch's basic operations, the less autonomy OPA retains, which is required to audit and investigate," Peter said.

In order to maintain independence with the new mandate, OPA would require separating staff assigned to the task force from their existing staff working on their other mandates, which would impact their productivity, she said.

She said OPA currently has an audit staff of seven and that they do not have the capacity to achieve this new mandate while meeting their other statutory and constitutional mandate.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

RESPONDERS

From Page 1

vaccines available. It's only right that they are vaccinated to safeguard not just the community, but everyone. It's not just the firefighters it's everyone," said Torres.

He said it's only possible for these firefighter to not take the vaccine if they have a medical condition with a doctor's note provided explaining why they can't be vaccinated or for religious reasons, but it is not acceptable if they just don't want to take the vaccine for personal reasons.

"To arbitrarily say, 'I don't want to take it' is contrary to the attorney general's recommendation. …So, again, I continue to urge all employees to get vaccinated," said Torres, adding that he encourages not only government employees, but private partners as well, to take the vaccine because "it's what we need to do."

"There's a lot of thoughts of 'Well, let's see the governor take it first and let's see if he falls.' Well, I took it, I was the second one to take it and I'm still here," said Torres.

Last March 16, all DFEMS personnel received a memorandum that says they are mandated to take the vaccine or risk termination. Their last day to register for the vaccine should be no longer than last Thursday, March 18. According to the memorandum, not registering or not showing proof that they have registered will result in disciplinary action. DFMES will only make an exception for those who have medical conditions or don't want to take it due to religious beliefs.

It was learned that the firefighters have signed a notice of complaint that they are filing under duress due to the threat of termination for their refusal to take the COVID-19 vaccine. It was learned that the firefighters are not "anti-vaccine" but that they "just want a choice."

Last Friday, Rep. Edwin Propst (D-Saipan) posted on Facebook that he and other member of the House of Representatives majority bloc are fully behind the firefighters. He added that the termination of the firefighters is "deplorable and disrespectful."

House session

Speaking in last Friday's House of Representative session, firefighter Shawn Delos Reyes Kaipat said that he and some of his fellow coworkers are unwilling to take the vaccine for the COVID-19 virus.

"We believe that it is still in its clinical stage," Kaipat said. "And we are not ready to take it until it's been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. We do not know what will happen five or maybe 10 years down the line."

Kaipat shared his concern for the possibility of respiratory disorders, cardiac diseases, kidney or liver, or renal failure.

"We fear the outcome of taking it and ending up worse," Kaipat said.

All three COVID-19 vaccines—the Pfizer vaccine, the Moderna vaccine, and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine—have all received Emergency Use Authorization from the U.S. FDA.

"Many of us in this profession want to serve the community the best way we know how until we retire, but it seems that will not happen. …Our families support what we do and why we do it, and for us to be forced to be vaccinated without hearing out concerns or thoughts, makes us feel unappreciated. We had more than 50 personnel unwilling to take the vaccine, but because of the threat of losing our job if we don't by this Thursday, 3/18/21, our numbers dwindled," Kaipat said.

'COVID-19 vaccine: Yes or no?'

And it's not just the firefighters.

A 23-year-old woman, who agreed to talk on condition of anonymity, said that while she respects everyone for getting vaccinated, she didn't get it because of religious beliefs.

"I believe that everything comes with some form of guidance from a higher power and the vaccine is not an exemption. Given what has been going on, the vaccine obviously doesn't prevent the spread of COVID-19. So, I believe once there is a vaccine that can really protect against this rampant virus, then I suppose this vaccine is guidance enough from God," she said.

She does not discourage anyone from getting the vaccine, though. "I don't want to discourage the community…because I believe that this is a stepping stone into containing the virus, but I'm in no rush to getting the vaccine," she said.

For 53-year-old Rosalina Balajadia, she only took the vaccine because she is planning to travel, and to also protect her family. If there were any other way, she wouldn't have taken the vaccine at all, she said, because she usually just stays home since she hasn't been working.

In contrast, Marvin Buston, 34, said he chose to get vaccinated because he believes that it's the "best way to fight the pandemic."

"It's a matter of choice, no one can tell you to do it. But for me, if you love your family, love your friends, the community, there's no harm in getting the vaccine," said Buston. He added that the recent community transmission felt like a wakeup call for everyone.

"I know the vaccination in the CNMI has been happening, but people are just waiting and waiting. I think the recent community transmission is the call for everyone. Let's not wait, let's all get vaccinated," said Buston.

The CNMI is still leading in the COVID-19 pandemic response with over 40%, or 22,205 people, receiving at least one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or the Moderna Inc. COVID-19 vaccine. ***(With Neil Fama)***

JODINA

From Page 1

in public but wrote them on pieces of paper, so it was not learned who voted for whom; only the result was announced.

In an interview with Attao, she said her immediate goal is to first sit with the board and to discuss what they—including herself—want to accomplish in the next few years.

"I know for the first two years, it's going to be…[about] just trying to build our foundation as an organization, then move on to ensure that all the classes that were supposed to be available are available to the people that are interested in taking trades and technical apprenticeship," said Attao.

NMTI currently has courses in adult high school, automotive technology, construction trades, power generation, culinary arts, and hotel and restaurant. It was not immediately learned what other courses aren't available for students at this time.

As interim CEO, Attao sees trades education as important for the CNMI. "We need to build skills in construction. …We need more nurses, physical therapist technicians, [and] those are all things that NMTI can provide in the future, should we move forward with all the plans that are supposed to be set in place," she said.

Attao received supportive comments during the public comments portion of Friday's meeting from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan), Division of Revenue and Taxation director Tracy Norita, Board of Education member Maisie B. Tenorio, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief operation officer Subroto Banerji, CHCC Quality and Performance Management manager Halina Palacios, and colleague Charlene Masiwemai. All agreed that Attao is a leader who sees the "bigger picture" and is always looking for ways to transform the community.

According to Norita, Attao has created important relationships across all government agencies that will help her "add value to NMTI."

According to Tenorio, Attao has the mindset of a leader in uncertain times in which she not only knows how to survives but thrives. "In Ms. Attao, NMTI would have the leader that can identify strengths in her team and motivate them to achieve their highest potential," said Tenorio.

For his part, Torres said he fully supports Attao as interim CEO.

Before NMTI, Attao was a quality improvement specialist at the Maternal and Child Health Bureau under CHCC. She has a bachelor's degree in Education from the Northern Marianas College and a master's degree in Education from Framingham State University. She is a former Language Arts teacher at Kagman High School.

FURLOUGHED

From Page 1

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued last Friday a directive that reinstates these employees in the government payroll, and also put back all government employees, excluding those in autonomous agencies, to full 80-hour work weeks.

In a directive to all government agency heads, Torres said he and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios are proud to announce that the CNMI has been able to secure funding to not only cancel the reduction-in-force process and recall the furloughed employees, but to return all employees to full 80-hour weeks.

The effective date starts with pay period beginning March 28, 2021

All government agencies, excluding autonomous agencies, who have employees undergoing RIF or still have furloughed employees are directed to contact and coordinate with the Office of Personnel Management or work with their personnel offices to end the RIF process.

He said all government agencies, excluding autonomous agencies, are further directed to have all remaining furloughed employees returned to duty starting with the pay period beginning March 28, 2021.

Torres said all government agency heads, excluding those of autonomous agencies, to return all employees to full 80-hour work weeks starting with the pay period beginning March 28, 2021.

"The lieutenant governor and I thank all of the employees for their sacrifice and understanding over the course of this very difficult year and for working together to see our community safely through this pandemic," Torres said.

Torres issued a directive last Feb. 9 that initiated RIF procedures for civil service employees due to the continued lack of tourists and a depressed economy. That meant 180 government employees who were on furloughs were to be permanently terminated from their jobs.

In his directive last Friday, the governor said it was always the administration's intention to cancel the RIF and bring back all furloughed employees if funding becomes available.

Rotary Club of Saipan members gather for a group photo during the Rotary Charter Night last Tuesday, March 16, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. NEIL FAMA

Rotary Club of Saipan celebrates 50 years of service

By NEIL FAMA
neil_fama@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Rotary Club of Saipan gathered for the Rotary Charter Night last Tuesday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall to celebrate 50 years of service to the CNMI community.

The event was also a trip down memory lane for many members, with a slideshow of pictures throughout the club's existence since its establishment in 1968.

In a written message from Rotary Club of Saipan president Thomas Thornburgh, who was unable to attend as he is off-island, he said: "It is with great pride that I write to you today in celebration of our 50th anniversary of the Saipan Rotary Club. …I am humbled to serve you as our president during this 50th year of the inception of the Saipan Rotary Club. As we celebrate this 50th anniversary, let's reflect on all that we have done, are doing, and will do in the future to promote Saipan. Fifty years' worth of accomplishments is worth celebrating!"

Thornburgh this is also a good time time for Rotarians to review the many different projects that they have done, and what they as a club can do for their home, Saipan, and how to improve those projects in the future. "I joined Rotary to learn…about serving others before yourself. This is our home, and I am a Rotarian, this is what we do," he said.

The Rotary Club of Saipan was established through the efforts of Rotary Club of Guam president Jim Alger, past president Robert J. Barry, Bill Gibson, David M. Sablan, John Trace, and Jim Hawkins.

Rotary International chartered the Rotary Club of Saipan on Feb. 16, 1968 with Sablan as its first president. Its membership consists of business, professional, and government people. The club meets every Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant. It supports its "Service Above Self" motto by holding several community projects every year, including the Parade of Books and Dictionary Project.

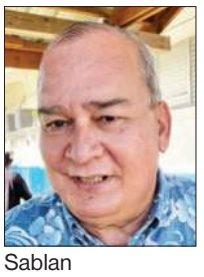
To support these projects, the Rotary Club of Saipan holds a number of fundraising activities, notably the Las Vegas Night.

UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Kilili: PSS will get $160.07M, NMC $5.77M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Congressional Research Service of the U.S., Congress has estimated that the CNMI will receive $160.07 million for elementary and secondary schools for the emergency relief funds under the American Rescue Plan of President Joe Biden, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).



Sablan

Sablan stated his e-kilili newsletter that the Northern Marianas College should also receive about $5.77 million and that at least half of that money must go to students to help prevent hunger and other hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said Marianas schools and libraries will also be eligible for help setting up WiFi hotspots and other connectivity devices for hybrid and remote learning situations from a $7.1-billion internet connectivity fund.

In Part B of the grant, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, an estimated $1.05 million will be available to support services for children with disabilities, Sablan said

He said $257,000 will also be available to support infants and toddlers with disabilities under IDEA Part C grant.

On the $160.07 million for elementary and secondary schools, among the expected uses of this money by the CNMI Public School System will be paying teachers and other staff so schools can remain open. Sablan said other uses will be for making physical changes to classrooms to ensure health safety standards are met, and helping children overcome the learning loss that occurred when schools were closed because of the pandemic.

SAFETY
Starts with "S"
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Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
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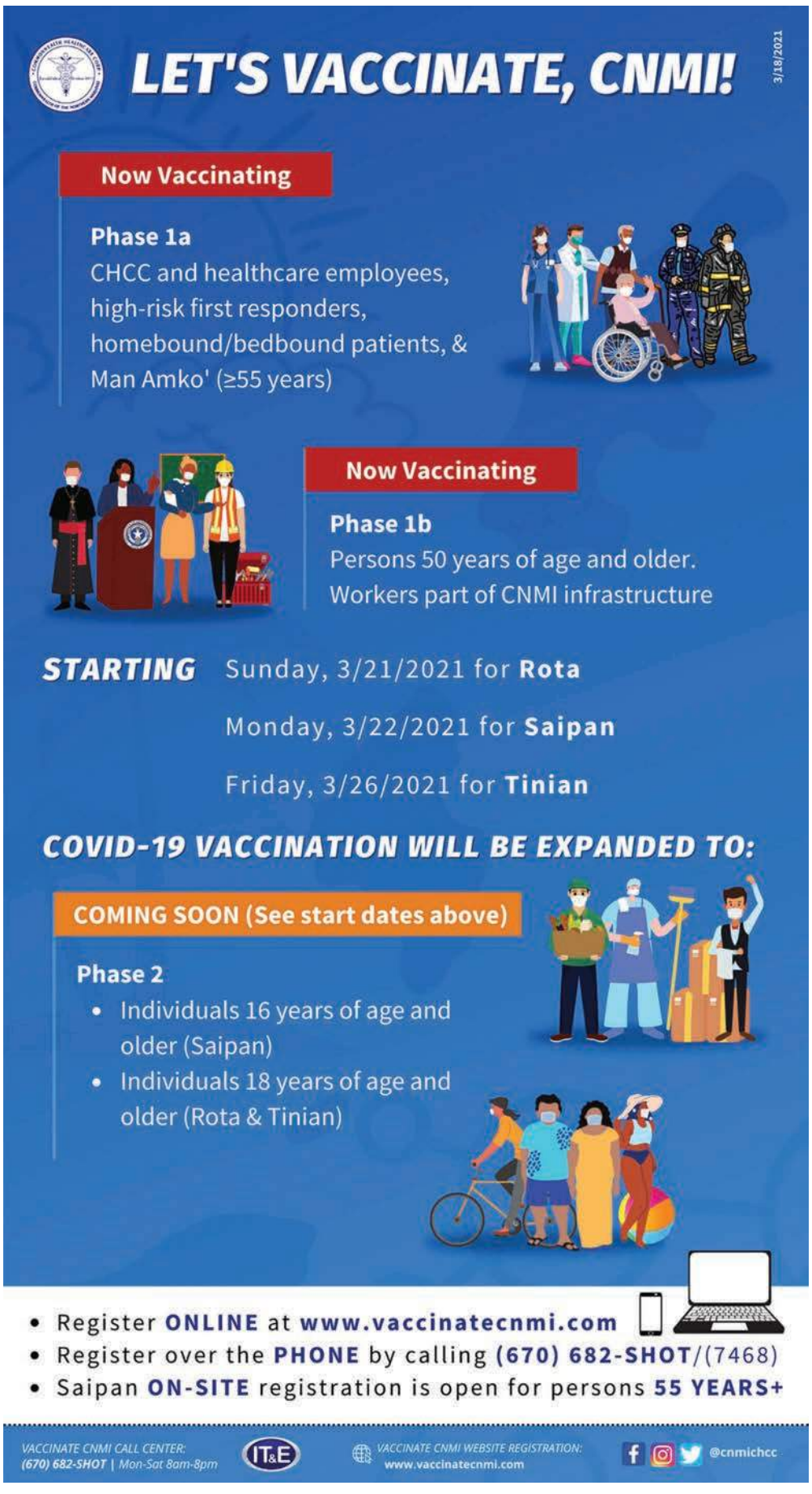
LET'S VACCINATE, CNMI!
3/18/2021
Now Vaccinating
Phase 1a
CHCC and healthcare employees,
high-risk first responders,
homebound/bedbound patients, &
Man Amko' (≥55 years)
Now Vaccinating
Phase 1b
Persons 50 years of age and older.
Workers part of CNMI infrastructure
STARTING Sunday, 3/21/2021 for Rota
Monday, 3/22/2021 for Saipan
Friday, 3/26/2021 for Tinian
COVID-19 VACCINATION WILL BE EXPANDED TO:
COMING SOON (See start dates above)
Phase 2
• Individuals 16 years of age and older (Saipan)
• Individuals 18 years of age and older (Rota & Tinian)
• Register ONLINE at www.vaccinatecnmi.com
• Register over the PHONE by calling (670) 682-SHOT/(7468)
• Saipan ON-SITE registration is open for persons 55 YEARS+
VACCINATE CNMI CALL CENTER:
(670) 682-SHOT | Mon-Sat 8am-8pm
IT&E
VACCINATE CNMI WEBSITE REGISTRATION:
www.vaccinatecnmi.com
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

Request for Qualification of Statements for Project Management Services for the 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

RFQ21-GOV-051

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Hazard Mitigation Program, Office of the Governor (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide Project Management Services for the 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Projects in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or the latest revision. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The selected Project Manager(s) (PM) will be retained as independent contractors under the Contracting Officer's general provision or his/her designee. The PM will act as agents of the expenditure authority on assigned projects to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within the cost, time, and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. The project management services are for a one-year contract with the option to renew for an additional year at the Commonwealth's discretion.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable Scope of Work and submittal requirements at the HMGP Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, beginning **Monday, March 22, 2021**, during business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday, except on holidays) or electronic mail (request to Tiana T. Reyes; treyes@omb.gov.mp).

A pre-proposal conference will conducted by Zoom Web Conference on **Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m ChST.** An invitation will be emailed to all interested parties. Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing to Ms. Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, via email: ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp or to fax no. (670) 664-2408 no later than **Friday, April 9, 2021, 4:00 p.m. ChSt.**

Selection of firms or individuals for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations §7070-30.3-305.
The evaluation will be on statements of professional qualification and the following criteria:

A. Overall qualifications in project (design/construction) management - (30%)
B. Experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope, - (30%)
C. Project approach and performance on similar projects, including cost control, ability to meet schedules, and quality of completed project (design/construction) management - (30%)
D. Current workload and demonstrated ability to perform the project Scope of Work - (10%)
E. Fee (0%)

To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and a CNMI Board of Professional Licensing Certificate of Authorization to practice as an Engineer or Architect. Statements of qualification can be a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 and shall not exceed 30 pages.

All of the documents listed above are considered material elements of the proposal. Failure to submit any of the documents listed above in the required format will result in classification as a non-responsive proposer and removed from further consideration.

Qualification statements must be sealed and marked **RFQ21-GOV-051 PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 404 HMGP PROJECTS.** For proposers within the CNMI, one original, two (2) copies, and a USB flashdrive of the qualifications statement must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Asencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST, Thursday, April 22, 2021**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST, Thursday, April 22, 2021** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to f.aguon@dof.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original, two (2) copies, and a USB flashdrive of the sealed qualifications statement must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Thursday, April 22, 2021.** They must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **Monday, May 3, 2021**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may cause a proposal's rejection.

/s/ Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Guam PTAC free webinar

March is Small Business Certification Month at the Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center. This Thursday, it will host a webinar on the Mentor-Protégé Program of the Small Business Administration, which is modeled after the 8(a) Mentor-Protégé Program. The Guam PTAC will update you on the eligibility requirements and how to apply.

The webinar will run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar. Register on http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

NAVFAC Pacific awards $15.7M contract for New Ordnance Administrative and Operations Facility in Guam

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific awarded a $15.7 million firm-fixed-price contract Mar. 17 to Core Tech-HDCC-Kajima LLC, of Tamuning, Guam, for the construction a new ordnance administrative and operation facility at Naval Support Activity, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

The new facility will provide administrative and industrial support to the U.S. Marine Corps supply and ammunition team relocating from Okinawa to Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, Guam.

"This project will provide the Marine Corps on Guam with a modern administrative and operations facility for controlling ordnance operations and maintaining accountability of critical assets," said MCBCB Chief of Staff Donald Baldwin.

Work will be performed in Yigo, Guam with an expected completion date of April 2023. ***(PR)***

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

5.2-magnitude quake on Saipan

At 6:07am on March 21, 2021, a report of a 5.2-magnitude earthquake occurred at 181 north of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

7.2-magnitude quake in Honshu, Japan

An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.2 occurred near the east coast of Honshu, Japan at 709pm CHST on Saturday, March 20, 2021. Based on all available data, there is no tsunami threat to Guam, Rota, Tinian, or Saipan from this earthquake. ***(PR)***

4.3-magnitude quake in Marianas

At 12:43pm on March 20, 2021 a report of a 4.3-magnitude earthquake occurred at 21.416°N 144.364°E in the Marianas Islands region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.6-magnitude earthquake on Maug

At 3:37pm on March 19, 2021, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred at 20.708°N 144.867°E in the Maug Island region, Northern Marianas Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-21-020

Installation of Sludge Dewatering Equipment

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Installation of Sludge Dewatering Equipment in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; installation of sludge dewatering equipment including the screw press skid (OFCI) for full function. The work shall include; selective demolition of existing improvements, the installation of sludge dewatering units (OFCI), shaftless auger conveyor (OFCI), installation of pressure pumps, installation of water storage tanks, and rehabilitation and modification of existing improvements, along with other miscellaneous features, for one unit at Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and one unit at Agingan WWTP. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi WWTP and Agingan WWTP. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, oeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **March 9, 2021 at 10:00 AM** (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-21-020, Installation of Sludge Dewatering Equipment" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 29, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A *Payment Bond* of one Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 16, 2021 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
JVA No. 21 – 028

Opening Date: March 15, 2021 • Closing Date: March 26, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Technician-Operator**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,826.00 to $28,115.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Two (2)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power General.

Duties:

- Responsible for the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks.
- Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities.
- Responsible for monitoring all Plant systems as assigned.
- Will act as the responsible person when working without supervision. Responsible for entire plant during operating periods.
- May direct and/or instruct all other personnel as required during all other periods.
- May be on call for emergency response.
- Operates, controls, monitors and inspects generators, switchgears, motor controls, transformers, protection relays, circuit breakers, compressors, RO system and other associated equipment.
- Performs analysis, maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs of 8 megawatt, 13 megawatt Mitsubishi-MAN diesel engines to include engine auxiliary equipment in the main Power Plant and provide the same services on the small Power Plant with 2.5 megawatt Electromotive Division (EMD) units.
- Ensures work is within Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM) engineering specifications and quality levels.
- Takes readings from meters, gauges and computers at established intervals, reads and interprets data to take corrective steps as necessary.
- Inspects records and log book entries, and communicates with other plant personnel in order to assess equipment-operating status.
- Performs systems operations to regulate and coordinate transmission load, frequencies and line voltages.
- Identifies potential issues and operational concerns; performs operational inspections and symptomatic maintenance; provides status reports; evaluates and implements solutions and corrective actions under emergency situations.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Considerable knowledge in operation, repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant operations and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing operator duties.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Mechanical and electrical principles, practices and operations of power plant equipment. Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Performing inspections and analyzing system and equipment data; Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standard operating procedures; Monitoring plant equipment and making adjustments; Identifying electrical and mechanical issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Initiating requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work; exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities.

Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends, holidays and on-call.
Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

MCS offers academic, extracurricular scholarships

Mount Carmel School will continue to offer academic and extracurricular scholarships this school year 2021-2022.

Academic and extracurricular scholarships are financial aid opportunities geared to help families afford the cost of tuition. The scholarships are determined by a committee of faculty and administrators who evaluate each applicant's character, résumé, involvement in school activities, and who exemplify a commitment to academic excellence. Each applicant is expected to also provide a letter of recommendation.

Application forms for the academic and extracurricular scholarships will be available on the school website (https://mountcarmelsaipan.com/) on May 1, 2021. Only complete applications will be considered prior to the deadline scheduled for May 31, 2021.

To support students and families, the school's board of directors is exploring more ways to expand scholarships and financial aid for its students. These measures are being taken due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current austerity measures in the CNMI. Additionally, the school's leadership team is also exploring ways to expand scholarship funding, possibly through earmarking a portion of all Education Tax Credit revenue toward the school's scholarship and financial aid program.

"It will always be our goal to offer the best Catholic education possible in the CNMI while keeping tuition affordable for our parents. This includes maintaining tuition rates at their current levels," said MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "By maintaining tuition and looking to expand scholarships and financial aid, the board and school leadership are demonstrating their commitment to our students and their families, especially those heavily affected by the economic impact of Super Typhoon Yutu and the COVID-19 pandemic."

In addition to scholarships and financial aid, the school will continue to offer other means of providing discounts for families. Families that enroll more than one child will receive discounts for each additional student: $600 off of tuition for the second child, $1,000 off of tuition for the third child, and $1,500 off of tuition for the fourth child.

The school has also continued to open its annual early bird registration discount as follows: For grades K4 - K5 registration is $50 per student (normally $100). For students in grades first through twelfth, the registration fee is $100 per student (normally $400.) The deadline for the Early Bird registration and fees is scheduled for May 1, 2021. ***(PR)***

FULLY VACCINATED CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio "Eli" Arago is injected with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine over the weekend at the Medical Care and Treatment Site behind the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a one-shot regimen, so people inoculated with this vaccine need to be injected just once.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF RITA KAIPAT,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 90-0840 [PROPOSED] ORDER AFTER HEARING

This matter came before the Court on February 9, 2021 at 9:00 am. Attorney Colin M. Thompson appeared on behalf of Administratrix Catalina Tebit and Attorney Janet H. King appeared on behalf of the *Estate of Carmen R. Guelles*. Attorney Thompson reported that at this time, Decedent's property interest cannot be determined by the title company and there are other individuals claiming ownership for Lot 1772New-2, Lot 1772 and E.A. 297. The Court finds that In rem jurisdiction is proper and that Lot 1772New-2, Lot 1772 and E.A. 297 is property over which this Court must resolve and oversee the "disposition of property." *In Re The Matter of the Estate of Hillblom*, 2011 MP 5 at ¶ 13; citing Pennoyer v. Neff, 95 U.S. 714, 734 (1878)(in an action to quiet title or to determine the ownership interests in real property, in rem jurisdiction is appropriate).

Based on the facts presented and the documents filed in this case, the Court orders Administratrix to serve this Order to all interested parties by publication in a newspaper of regular circulation for four consecutive weeks. Administratrix shall also serve Triple J Enterprise the Motion to Amend Inventory and Order After Hearing. The hearing on Administratrix's Motion to Amend Inventory will be heard on April 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Interested parties are ordered to appear before the Court to present their claims.

SO ORDERED this 25th day of February, 2021.

/s/ **HONORABLE WESLEY M. BOGDAN**
Associate Judge

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
2390 Beach Road, Oleai CDA Bldg., Unit 205, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 95960
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2021-CDA-03-RFP
Closing Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 Time: 10:00 a.m.

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF VIDEO CONFERENCE SYSTEMS

Copies of the proposal package may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 2nd Floor, Unit 205, CDA Building, Beach Road Oleai, Saipan, during regular working hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB21-GOV-055

SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF AN AUTOMATIC TRANSFER SWITCH FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE, BUILDING 1326, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN MP

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:30 AM CHST, APRIL 19, 2021

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the ***Supply and Installation of an Automatic Transfer Switch for the CNMI Scholarship Office, Building 1326*** in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available on **March 19, 2021** at the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the CNMI Scholarship Office, Building 1326 in Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST April 6, 2021**. Proposers may request to participate via phone call or virtually five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled. All attendees are required to use a face mask and exercise social distancing throughout the duration of the meeting.

Questions regarding this ITB may be sumitted via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan at sunnyaldan.cip@gmail.com no later than **4:30 PM ChST April 12, 2021**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, April 19, 2021**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: March 22, 2021 CLOSING DATE: April 06, 2021 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2021-019	Accountant I	$26,289.21 - $33,975.00- per annum Classified

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, San Jose; Drop-off application at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

GUAM & COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WEBEX MEETING MARCH 23, 2021

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
Honolulu Regional Office - Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers
on
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021

From
4PM-6PM (GUAM & CNMI LOCAL TIME)

To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the below links into your browser:

****DOWNLOAD SLIDES at:** https://www.benefits.va.gov/honolulu/

https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=mb0b8a640dcac3959519cac00d571f644

You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-404-397-1596, 1992703428##), or Webex Mobile App

Benefits Workshop Topics:
Compensation, Pension, Education & Training, DIC, Survivor Benefits, Loan Guaranty, Veteran Readiness & Employment, Burial and Plot Internment Allowance, Burial Flags, & Insurance

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 56

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Atlanta murders: Reckless gun laws may have played a role

Tuesday's attack on several Atlanta-area spas that left eight people dead has renewed concerns about violence directed toward Asian Americans amid the pandemic.

The 21-year-old charged in the shootings is white, while six of the eight victims were women of Asian descent. And studies have shown a significant uptick in hate crimes against Asian Americans in large U.S. cities linked to the rhetoric of Donald Trump and often amplified by white nationalist supporters who describe COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus" or "Kung Flu."

But there's another element in these attacks that deserves scrutiny, and it, too, represents a broad and persistent problem in this country. The man charged in these attacks—the worst mass shooting in the U.S. in nearly two years—purchased a firearm the same day police say he went on his rampage.

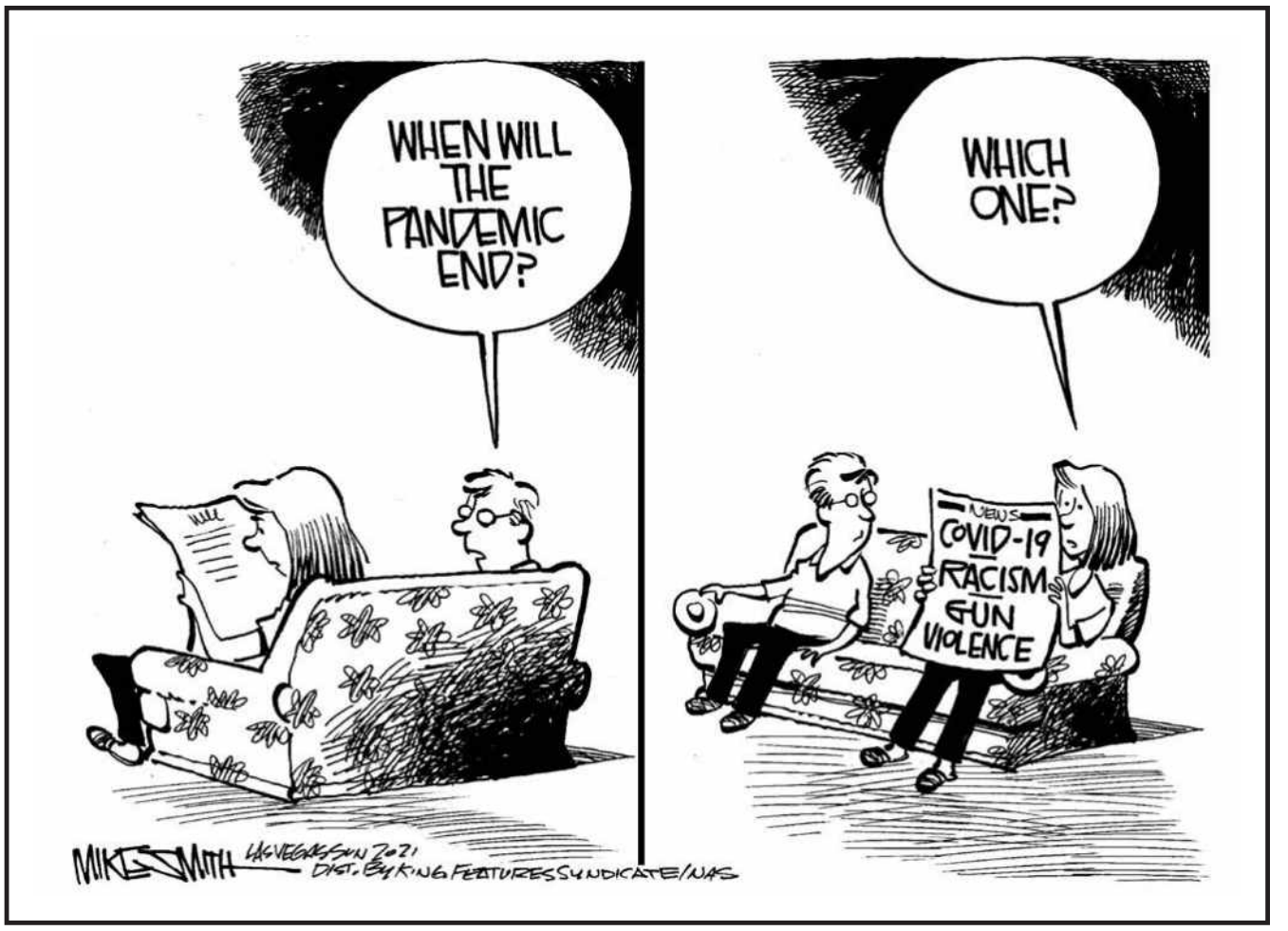
Robert Aaron Long, the man charged with eight counts of murder, reportedly strolled into a Cherokee County gun store on Tuesday, put down his money, passed an instant background check and walked out of the store with his weapon. There was no waiting period. There was no mandatory safety class. There was simply a transaction that experts say might have only taken minutes to complete. Voters are more closely scrutinized in Georgia (and Peach state Republicans are currently bent are making voting stricter still). Women seeking to terminate a pregnancy are more inconvenienced by the state's 24-hour waiting period intended to prevent impulsive decision-making.

Would a waiting period have prevented this horrific crime? It's impossible to know for sure. But here's one observation made after the suspect's arrest that ought to be remembered: When asked about the shooter's possible motivation, Cherokee County Sheriff's Capt. Jay Baker said the young man was "having a really bad day." That suggests Mr. Long was acting impulsively and argues for putting reasonable restrictions on gun sales to address this very possibility. How often do domestic arguments escalate to the point where a quick trip to the local gun store is suddenly a real possibility? How about for those contemplating suicide?

Yet despite this threat of impulsivity, only 10 states and the District of Columbia currently impose waiting periods for all purchases of all firearms, according to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

Clearly, part of the problem is that states have markedly different attitudes toward gun violence prevention. And, like so many other policy choices, it often comes down to Democratic-leaning states versus Republican-leaning states. Perhaps if states were fortresses, this would be perfectly fine. People can make the decision that on-demand

See ATLANTA on Next Page



How do we conquer vaccine skeptics? We listen

By CLARA FERREIRA MARQUES
Bloomberg Opinion

Clara Ferreira Marques is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering commodities and environmental, social and governance issues. Previously, she was an associate editor for* Reuters Breakingviews*, and editor and correspondent for Reuters in Singapore, India, the U.K., Italy and Russia.*

Ask on the street in Hong Kong if passers-by will get the COVID-19 vaccine, and you may hear what I did: "Sometime." "Maybe." "No."

Combating this hesitancy here and elsewhere will take more than opprobrium and exhortation. It requires tuning in.

A combination of deep-seated distrust in government, ignorance and lack of urgency—in a territory that has kept coronavirus cases low—means Hong Kong is now struggling to get enough residents inoculated. This week, when appointments opened for people over 30, tens of thousands of us rushed to book, picking between Chinese-made Sinovac Biotech Ltd. and the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Many more, out of 5.5 million eligible in a population of 7.5 million, did not.

Hong Kong is a perfect storm of problematic factors, from political tumult to reports of seven deaths among more than 160,000 people given the Sinovac shot that have caused unease, though the incidents haven't been linked to the vaccine. Even before the shots were made widely available, many indicated they would delay. But the city is hardly alone. Skepticism and anxiety are as old as vaccines themselves, haunting even inoculation pioneer Edward Jenner, and run from the backstreets of Lahore to high-end Paris neighborhoods.

It's not a problem that can be brushed off. There's little hope of life returning to normal, much less of conquering a virus that has killed 2.7 million and paralyzed economies, until enough people step up to achieve herd immunity— probably upwards of 70%. Even a small shortfall could be enough to cost lives and livelihoods.

The good news is that experience has taught us plenty about campaigns and resistance. Plus, while COVID-19 has been a catastrophe, it's also an unprecedented opportunity, given the visible public health ravages, to change minds and prove the value of vaccines.

The less positive news is that the causes of skepticism are manifold and complex. Misinformation is one problem: We know that from episodes like the Nigeria polio vaccine boycott in 2003-04, or the scare around the diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccination in the 1970s and 1980s. Today, social media means even very modest numbers of militant anti-vaxxers move fast through online chatrooms to conquer the hesitant, sometimes just by sowing doubt. A Facebook study showed a small subset of users was responsible for most of the skeptical content posted. But there are plenty more sources, from lack of trust in authorities to health care barriers to simple racism. Episodes like the 40-year Tuskegee syphilis study that denied Black men in the U.S. state of Alabama diagnosis and treatment cast a long shadow.

It's a far lengthier list for COVID-19, where disinformation was present from the start, fed by geopolitical tensions and polarized domestic agendas as in the U.S., where President Donald Trump minimized the threat and fed conspiracy theories. There was outright denial in places like Turkmenistan, reporting no confirmed cases, and Tanzania, which stopped publishing data last April.

The swift appearance of vaccines unsettled even more people, unclear where time was saved or how risks balance against rewards. Europe's suspension of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine over reports of blood clotting may be understandable as a show of caution, but real-world evidence suggests the shots are safe. Once sown, doubts are very hard to clear.

In a way, it's odd that vaccines spark so much debate. Far fewer people feel so strongly about allergy medication or cough syrup. Heidi Larson, who runs the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and studies rumors, connects it to the involvement of government and big business—institutions in which distrust runs high. In a recent address, she said it's less an information problem than a relationship one. Low faith in authorities, as in Hong Kong or Lebanon, another skeptical hot spot, means few will take risks. It's no accident that vaccine skepticism so often overlaps with poor governance and populist politics.

It's clearly necessary to block anti-vaccine disinformation on social media platforms, but it's not a solution on its own, any more than mandating the injection—a move that would further antagonize and polarize, damaging future efforts. Simply shutting down skeptics is a poor tactic when exclusion is half the

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Artificial intelligence

'RICK'S COLUMN'
By RICK PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

This week, we will briefly touch upon the topic of artificial intelligence, or AI, discuss what it is, why it is so important to the American empire and national security, and how the ancient Chamorro people of the Marianas can prepare themselves to be ready for future possible job and entrepreneurial opportunities at the intersection of warfare and technology.

What is AI? Star Wars gone wild?

AI is a constellation or universe of technologies, computer hardware and software, designed to solve specific tasks that reflect and are intended to resemble human cognitive processes to include decision making, reasoning, learning, and perceiving.

AI has applications that reprogram itself to complete specific tasks called machine learning. Within the machine learning space, there are applications that take information to produce outcomes with increasing accuracy. This technology can be interpreted as an evolving manufactured ecosystem that attempts to some degree to self-develop and monitor without human intervention.

This is both potentially dangerous and beneficial stuff.

Why AI is important to the United States and our ancient Chamorro people

Part of the answer is found in a report released by the congressionally established National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence, which outlined the national importance of AI and its application to all facets of American—and by implication, American colonial—society. The commission was established to assess how AI affects imperial competitiveness and technological advantage.

AI is important because it has civilian and military applications that are used every day by every citizen, whether one resides on Saipan, Rota, in New York, Birmingham or elsewhere. If you are looking for a movie to watch or check out what time a restaurant or bar opens, or get vehicle maintenance service, or asking your iPhone a question, AI will be a part of the enabling infrastructure that will get you the answers to your questions.

AI is now found everywhere and is used knowingly or unknowingly, again posing benefits and concerns to society.

If Guam moves toward building a new hospital, AI will be an integral and ubiquitous part of how healthcare decisions are informed, how biotechnology is implemented, and how personal medical information and data are managed, distributed, protected, and delivered. AI will become more important as Guam continues to move toward technological solutions for future energy, food technology and security opportunities. Folks in the NMI will see a greater role of AI as the Commonwealth moves toward electric and eventually unmanned cars.

Cyber-attacks against the United States government and other facets of society occur every day. AI was the underbelly used to enable computer networks to find vulnerabilities recently when the government of Guam experienced a cyber-attack. These attacks may come in the form of data harvesting, targeted attacks on individual citizens, or AI enabled attacks on social media, intended to influence or harm the targets.

The American national government is contemplating ways to aggressively deal with data protection, privacy, and security. Congress remains behind the curve on how to craft legislation to address ongoing technological change. Others worry that domestic data surveillance is out of control and has already compromised our privacy and protection.

Why AI is important to the governments of Guam and the CNMI

Now is the time for the governments of Guam and the CNMI to consider creating a Marianas Artificial Intelligence, Security and Emerging Technologies Understanding advisory board to learn and more completely seek to comprehend the nature of AI, how it is currently used and how it presents opportunities and vulnerabilities to every aspect of Pacific island life. There is no reason why Guam and CNMI legislative committees overseeing technology cannot hold initial hearings to discuss AI.

Future educational and career opportunities: Pay attention

Guam Community College is doing some work with its resources available to students in math and science tutoring and management information systems programming. The University of Guam has resources that can or will eventually be able to contribute toward providing AI jobs for young islanders who have math, engineering, nursing, education, biology, and Chamorro studies backgrounds.

Guam institutions have opportunities to further partner with the Guam Department of Education, and the CNMI Public School System on the implications of AI. Marianas educational institutions would be well served to contemplate the establishment of emerging technology certificate programs to prepare Pacific Islanders for much needed and well-paid technology jobs. All Marianas institutions can also create opportunities to seek partnerships with major American companies and entities in Silicon Valley and elsewhere, intended to create AI related jobs and training.

Lawmakers from Guam and the CNMI as well as the governors can contemplate creating national level digital annex risk management programs for all school age kids interested in future technical challenges that will provide good paying jobs while helping to secure America and its colonies. Science and technology partnerships with Taiwan and South Korea may also be something that can be operationalized for mutual benefit.

The AI race is on, security threats increase

A most dangerous aspect of rapidly emerging AI enabled technology and networks is that nation state adversaries such as China and Russia may outpace the United States on this front over the next 10 to 15 years. This presents and will present fundamental risks and threats to the existing militarized resource base currently embedded and/or connected to Guam and the CNMI that may include risks tied to autonomous unmanned weapon system warfare and real future risks associated with crisis stability and human authorized employment of very dangerous nuclear weapons and networks through unmanned platforms.

AI threatens to pose real challenges to traditional process identification and validation issues related to military targeting matters, creating risks to real-time battle assessment decisions that will need to be made in the future.

Now is the time for our Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization to continue the broad conversation on issues of the military and national and colonial security to demystify and assess the importance of AI and what it means to all our families and friends in the 21st century.

HOW

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problem.

For a long time, distrust in lifesaving shots seemed to me a fringe position stemming from ignorance. Then I had a child on the autism spectrum, and found myself interrogated far too frequently and too publicly on his vaccine schedule: Had he had the shot against measles, mumps and rubella, the MMR? It's a reference to a long-discredited study that links autism and the inoculation that has done untold harm, turbo-charging the anti-vaccine movement. These were not uneducated people or conspiracy theorists, but they had questions.

That's where we need to start.

Pictures of vaccinated celebrities, simple booking mechanisms and basic access to injections are all important. But it's vital to listen to the doubters and understand where the problems are coming from. The Philippines, for example, is still feeling the impact of a dengue vaccine that could worsen symptoms in people not previously infected. Some Hong Kongers will need to be reassured on the provenance and safety of vaccines. Elsewhere, it may be a question of explaining why it is a priority, when other health threats loom large, too. Tailoring the response matters, as does providing it from a locally respected source—whether doctors, priests or elders.

One option is what one U.S. public health specialist described to me: Focus groups that connect peers and seek to answer questions and educate without preaching. His experience among Hispanic and other communities suggests naysayers are brought around after evidence from a friend or relative, or when an acquaintance has been vaccinated without adverse consequences. Behavioral science in areas like climate change shows similar results: We're happier to change our views if someone we can relate to does the convincing.

Such efforts are possible almost everywhere. Community discussions won't fix deep-seated distrust in government and may not reconcile everyone with science. It's late—the push should have started months ago. But we can still reach enough people to make a difference.

ATLANTA

From Page 8

guns are worth the price of mass shootings, suicides and other hot-blooded killings. The problem is that people are mobile, and guns purchased outside Maryland often find their way into the hands of the wrong people. Nearly one-third of guns used in Maryland crimes originate from out-of-state purchases, according to a federal database.

That argues for not just Georgia to get its act together but for the federal government to set some minimum standard. Would a waiting period prove an annoyance to hunters, target shooters and others accustomed to picking up a new firearm on a lark? Probably. But studies have suggested it would also have this impact: an 11% reduction in firearm suicide rates and a 17% drop in gun homicides. The choice is obvious.

The U.S. Senate remains a likely roadblock, however. Just last month, the Democratic-run Maryland General Assembly had to override a veto by Republican Gov. Larry Hogan to give final approval to legislation simply mandating background checks for private sales of rifles and shotguns. One can only imagine the outcry from Senate Republicans over similar legislation.

But wait, you won't have to imagine much longer: Democrats in Congress are already pushing for some modest gun safety measures, including HR 8, which passed the House last week and requires background checks for private gun sales, and this week's House renewal of the Violence Against Women Act, which bans convicted stalkers from acquiring firearms. None of this is gun "grabbing" or a violation of Second Amendment rights or whatever contrivance opponents care to claim. Elected officials who think otherwise ought to take a few days to talk to the victims of gun violence before they act precipitously and allow more lives to be put in grave danger.

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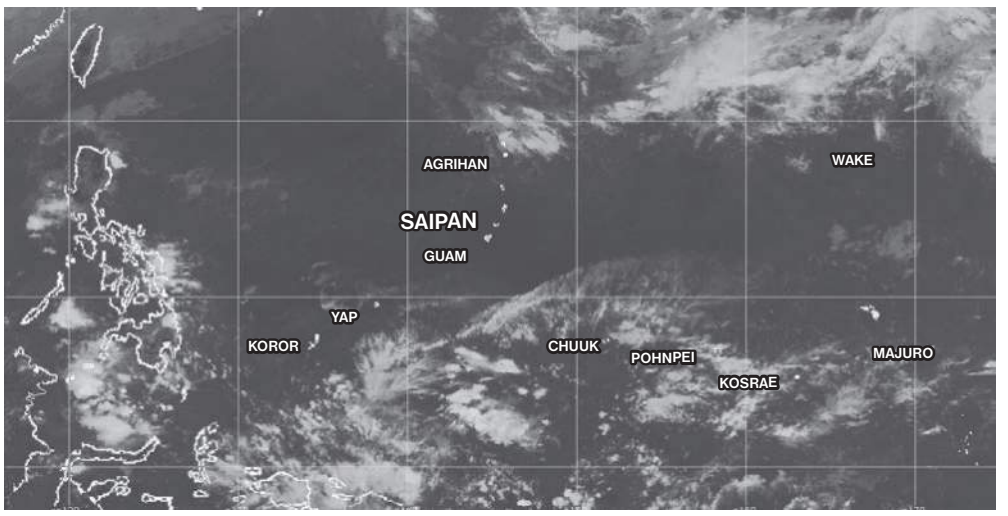
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:10 AM, SUNdAy, MARCH 21, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers over the Marianas and surrounding waters this morning. Looking eastward, at weather that could arrive at the Marianas later, the clouds build a little around 150E, then start to get really thick around 165E. So, expected this fair weather to continue a couple more days at least. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 5 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	84 | 77 °F
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85 | 77 °F
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	88 | 71 °F
Chuuk	Rain	84 | 80 °F
Pohnpei	Overcast	86 | 79 °F
Kosrae	Rain	86 | 79 °F
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85 | 79 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:54 AM	12:20 PM
Tuesday	-	1:46 AM	1:13 PM
Wednesday	-	2:38 AM	2:10 PM
Thursday	-	3:29 AM	3:07 PM
Friday	-	4:17 AM	4:06 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Clear	74 | 58 °F
Beijing	Clear	66 | 45 °F
Hong Kong	Rain Mist	73 | 68 °F
Honolulu	Clear	82 | 70 °F
London	Overcast	57 | 52 °F
Los Angeles	Clear	76 | 54 °F
Manila	Clear	91 | 74 °F
Melbourne	Clear	90 | 65 °F
Miami	Clear	82 | 63 °F
New York	Overcast	50 | 41 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	63 | 47 °F
Paris	Overcast	59 | 47 °F
Pusan	Clear	65 | 37 °F
Rome	Scattered Clouds	62 | 48 °F
Salem	Overcast	58 | 34 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	67 | 54 °F
Seoul	Haze	63 | 35 °F
Tokyo	Clear	63 | 42 °F
Washington, DC	Rain	48 | 34 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:36 AM	High Tide	1.46
8:19 AM	Low Tide	1.23
12:39 PM	High Tide	1.45
8:42 PM	Low Tide	0.11

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 5, 6
UA117	7:00am	7:40am	4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1, 5 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 5, 6
UA174	5:15am	5:56am	4

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:55pm	5:56am+1	3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Atkins Kroll appoints new executive positions

TAMUNING, Guam—Atkins Kroll Inc. president Wendi Herring announced two executive appointments to the company's leadership team. The company has appointed Trina Cruz as the company's Marketing & Communications director. Additionally, the company appointed Ernie Galito as its Business Development director. Both of these positions will take effect on April 12, 2021.

Cruz possesses over 10 years in senior leadership roles, emphasizing corporate communications, marketing, branding, public relations, sales, and business development. Cruz was most recently the director of Marketing & Brand Development for the Pacific Islands Club, a major all-inclusive resort with the region's largest water park. Cruz played a significant role in accomplishing the resort's consistent year-over-year growth.

Cruz holds both a professional MBA degree and a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Guam.

Cruz

Cruz's depth of experience also includes event management for the United Airlines Guam Marathon and the marketing of BMW, Land Rover, and Subaru brands on Guam. "We are very excited to have Trina on AK's executive team with her strategic marketing experience and track record in developing and delivering exceptional customer value. We look forward to progressive growth in the AK family of products and services as we rise from the COVID-19 disruption," said Herring.

As many organizations, including AK, seek to successfully optimize for a post-COVID-19 future, the company is looking for portfolio and performance opportunities. Galito, a Mississippi State University graduate, has an extensive and diverse background in marketing and business development.

"As AK's Marketing and Communications director for the past five years, Ernie's professional experience, business acumen, and community reputation, he fits the role for our business development aspirations. We look to attain a view of the business's full potential across both portfolio and performance moves. Ernie will be responsible for structuring programs with thoughtful sequencing that maximizes value," said Herring. "We see growth opportunities in the automotive and mobility market with the realignment of U.S. military missions, re-igniting the tourism engine, and economic diversification throughout Guam, CNMI, and Micronesia," added Herring.

Galito

For more information, contact Ernie Galito at (671) 648-8400 or ernie.galito@AKguam.com.

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, is the leading distributor of vehicles in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Micronesia, enabling it to provide a full range of products and services in the region. Atkins Kroll is Guam's oldest corporation, established in 1914 and represents Toyota, Lexus, Chevrolet, BMW, Toyota Rent A Car, ACE Rent a Car, and AC Delco brands. ***(PR)***

US businesses near border struggle with boundaries' closure

NOGALES, Ariz. (AP)—Evan Kory started calling brides in Mexico's northern Sonora state last March, asking if they wanted to get their wedding gowns from his Arizona store just before the U.S. closed its borders with Mexico and Canada because of the coronavirus.

His namesake shop in the border town of Nogales was popular among brides-to-be in northern Sonora for its large, affordable inventory, said Kory, the third-generation proprietor. Located steps from the border fence, Kory's has been in business for half a century but has been closed for a year because of the pandemic, with its main customer base—Mexican day-trippers—largely unable to come to the U.S. and shop.

Some 1,600 miles (2,575 kilometers) north, Roxie Pelton in the border town of Oroville, Washington, has been in a similar pinch. Business at her shipping and receiving store is down 82% from a year ago because most of the Canadians who typically send their online orders to her shop haven't been able to drive across the border.

Last summer, the 72-year-old let two employees go and now works alone.

"I've gotten by this far, and I'm just praying that I can hold until the border opens up," Pelton said last month.

In border towns across the U.S., small businesses are reeling from the economic fallout of the partial closure of North America's international boundaries. Restrictions on nonessential travel were put in place a year ago to curb the spread of the virus and have been extended almost every month since, with exceptions for trade, trucking and critical supply chains.

Small businesses, residents and local chambers of commerce say the financial toll has been steep, as have the disruptions to life in communities where it's common to shop, work and sleep in two different countries.

"Border communities are those that rely—economically, socially, and yes, health wise—on the daily and essential travel of tourist visa holders," the presidents of 10 chambers of commerce in Arizona, Texas and California border cities wrote in a letter last month to the Homeland Security and Transportation departments. It asked the government to allow visitors with U.S. tourist visas to cross into their states.

As more Americans are vaccinated against COVID-19 and infection rates fall, many hope the restrictions will soon be eased.

U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, a Republican from Maine, asked the Biden administration last month to reconsider U.S.-Canada border restrictions, arguing "common-sense exceptions" like family visits or daily commerce should be made for border towns where infection rates were low.

However, the Department of Homeland Security announced that the U.S., Mexico and Canada agreed to extend border restrictions on nonessential travel through April 21.

Meanwhile, Democratic U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva of Arizona has introduced a bill to provide small businesses within 25 miles (40 kilometers) of a U.S. border with loans of up to $500,000 or grants of $10,000.

"Cross-border traffic is the lifeblood of their economy," Grijalva said. "And it's the people that walk over, the people that come to do retail shopping."

Visitors from Mexico contribute an estimated 60% to 70% of sales tax revenue in Arizona border communities, according to the Arizona-Mexico Commission, which promotes trade and tourism.

In Texas, border cities have faced higher unemployment rates during the pandemic than the state average, though in some places, that had already been the case.

Jesus Cañas, a business economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, said Texas border economies appear to have fared better than many predicted a year ago. In border cities like Brownsville, Laredo and El Paso, January's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates of 9.5%, 8.9% and 7.4%, respectively, were close enough to the state's rate of 7.3% to suggest the restrictions have had less impact on larger, more diversified border economies than elsewhere.

"What I have seen over the years is that the border adjusts to these shocks in a very peculiar way," Cañas said.

In Nogales, the economic wear from nearly 12 months of a partially shut border is easy to spot in the historic downtown.

Bargain clothing stores, money exchanges, second-hand shops and retailers selling plastic knickknacks within walking distance of the border were closed. Many storefronts were boarded up.

Olivia Ainza-Kramer, president of the Nogales Chamber of Commerce, said the loss in revenue from the drop in Mexican shoppers over the past year has been felt most acutely by businesses closest to the border that tend to be family-owned and cater to pedestrian shoppers.

Further north, big-box retailers and other stores have fared a little better because they're visited by residents of the town of 20,000, she said.

Kory, who owns the bridal shop, saw the contrast up close. His family has three clothing stores in Nogales. Two are steps from the U.S.-Mexico port of entry—and both closed—while a third is about 4 miles (6 kilometers) from the border.

After testy meeting, China says will discuss climate with US

AP

In this March 18, 2021, file photo, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, second from right, joined by national security adviser Jake Sullivan, right, speaks while facing Chinese Communist Party foreign affairs chief Yang Jiechi, second from left, and China's State Councilor Wang Yi, left, at the opening session of U.S.-China talks at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska.

BEIJING (AP)—China said Saturday it had agreed with the U.S. to take up climate change and a handful of other issues, a sign of small but possible progress at recently concluded talks that were otherwise marked by acrimonious public exchanges over the divisions between the world's two largest economies.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said in a dispatch from Alaska, where the two-day meeting wrapped up Friday, that China and the U.S. had decided to set up a working group on climate change and hold talks "to facilitate activities of ... diplomatic and consular missions" and on issues related to each other's journalists.

However, in a sign that differences will be difficult to overcome, U.S. officials said no formal agreements had been reached on resuming any dialogues or starting new initiatives.

The two countries feuded over journalist visas and consulates during the Trump administration, and climate change is seen as one area where they may be able to cooperate.

Senior Biden administration officials held their first face-to-face meeting with their Chinese counterparts in Anchorage, Alaska, since taking office earlier this year. The talks opened with tense and extended exchanges over human rights before television cameras, before the officials retreated behind closed doors.

The two countries are at odds over a range of issues from trade to human rights in Tibet, Hong Kong and China's western Xinjiang region, as well as Taiwan, China's assertiveness in the South China Sea and the coronavirus pandemic.

"The U.S. side should not underestimate China's determination to safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests," Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Chinese media after the meeting.

The Biden administration has yet to signal whether it will back away from the hard-line stances taken under President Donald Trump. A senior U.S. official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the private talks and spoke on condition of anonymity, said there were a few areas "in the normal course of our diplomatic engagements where we may be able to explore" but added that there had been no formal agreements on any new discussions.

The Xinhua report did not provide any details on the climate change working group, other than to say both countries were committed to enhancing communication and cooperation in the field.

It also said the the two sides discussed adjusting COVID-19 travel and visa policies and reciprocal arrangements for vaccination of their diplomats.

While the report said both countries agreed to hold talks on consular missions and journalists, it did not mention the previous disputes.

Nation

‘Speak out’: Biden, Harris decry racism during Atlanta visit

ATLANTA (AP)—President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris offered solace to Asian Americans and denounced the scourge of racism at times hidden “in plain sight” as they visited Atlanta, just days after a white gunman killed eight people, most of them Asian American women.

Addressing the nation after a roughly 80-minute meeting with Asian American state legislators and other leaders Friday, Biden said it was “heart-wrenching” to listen to their stories of the fear among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders amid what he called a “skyrocketing spike” of harassment and violence against them.

“We have to change our hearts,” he said. “Hate can have no safe harbor in America.”

Biden called on all Americans to stand up to bigotry when they see it, adding: “Our silence is complicity. We cannot be complicit.”

“They’ve been attacked, blamed, scapegoated and harassed; they’ve been verbally assaulted, physically assaulted, killed,” Biden said of Asian Americans during the coronavirus pandemic.

The president also called the shootings an example of a “public health crisis of gun violence in this country,” as his administration has come under scrutiny from some in his own party for not moving as swiftly as promised on reforming the nation’s gun laws.

Harris, the first person of South Asian descent to hold national office, said that while the motive of the shooter remains under investigation, these facts are clear: Six of the eight killed were of Asian descent and seven of them were women.

“Racism is real in America. And it has always been. Xenophobia is real in America, and always has been. Sexism, too,” she said. “The president and I will not be silent. We will not stand by. We will always speak out against violence, hate crimes and discrimination, wherever and whenever it occurs.”

She added that everyone has “the right to be recognized as an American. Not as the other, not as them. But as us.”

Before leaving Washington, Biden declared his support for the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, a bill that would strengthen the government’s reporting and response to hate crimes and provide resources to Asian American communities.

Georgia state Rep. Marvin Lim, who was among a group of Asian American leaders who met with Biden and Harris in Atlanta, said the group “didn’t really talk about hate crime sentencing and all of these things there’s been a lot of discussion around.

“We really talked about the grief people are feeling, the fear people are feeling, the possible responses to that,” Lim said. “The discussion felt very affirming.”

State Sen. Michelle Au, a Chinese American Democrat who represents parts of Atlanta’s northern suburbs, was moved by the presence of Harris, saying: “Not only that she was there listening to us, but that she also understood these issues in a very intimate way, that in some ways you can’t teach, that you can’t teach that sort of lived experience. So we felt that she was going to be an incredible advocate on our behalf in the White House.”

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Vicenta Santos Muna Sablan

LOVINGLY KNOWN AS “LILY”

In her new life, she now joins her:
Parents: †Esteban Tudela Muna & †Maria Santos Muna “Terang”
Parents In-law: †Ricardo Salas Sablan, †Emilia Pangelinan Palacios & †Alfonso Arriola Palacios
Brother & Sister In-law: †Francisco Santos Muna & †Irene B. Muna
Brothers In-law: †David P. Sablan, †David C. Sablan, †Joaquin G. Adriano, †Thomas F. Ada, †Gregorio CH Baza

Her memories will live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Jose Pangelinan Sablan
Children: Nanette S. Palacios & Joseph R. Palacios (Darwin Arriola & Liyan Aldan: Devin, Aryanna, Deanna, Dayton; Nathan S. Palacios; Katelyn S. Palacios; Jonessa S. Palacios); **Jovinette M. Sablan & John B. Cruz** (Antonio Cruz, Liliana Cruz); **Leanette M. Sablan & Brandon C. Cabrera** (Breanna Cabrera, Brandon Cabrera, Jr.)

Sister & Brothers and Spouses: Carmen S. Muna & family; **Victor S. Muna/Junrong Jing Muna** & family; **†Francisco S. Muna/†Irene B. Muna** & family; **Gilbert S. Muna**; **Gerard S. Muna /Melinda I. Muna** & family

Sisters and Brothers In-law: Isidro Cabrera/Bernie S. Cabrera and family; **Antonio P. Sablan/Patricia Concepcion** and family; **Consuelo Park-Baza/†Gregorio CH Baza** and family; **Marian P. Palacios/Alvin Ogo** and family; **Barbara P. Ada/†Thomas F. Ada** and family; **Alexander P. Sablan** and family; **Donald P. Palacios/Elizabeth Tebuteb** and family; **Regina P. Pangelinan; Albert P. Palacios/Trisha B. Palacios** and family; **Summer P. Palacios/Kelvin Babauta** & family; **Tina P. Flores/Erwin Flores** and family; **Jessica Palacios** and family; **Dorothy Palacios** and family; **Marina Borja** and family; **Melanie/William Camacho** and family; **Thomas Benigno C. Sablan/Kulani DLG. Sablan** and family; **Ricardo C. Sablan/Tina A. Sablan** and family; **Catherine C. Sablan** and family; **Glenn C. Sablan/Karen Sablan** and family; **Vicente C. Sablan; Francisco C. Sablan** and family; **Manuel C. Sablan/Shannon Mafnas; Jesse C. Sablan/Kiani Sablan** and family; **Rosannie C. Sablan/Jesse Cabrera** and family.

She will be missed by numerous Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren, Relatives and Friends.

The funeral services of our beloved will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at Mount Carmel Cathedral from 8 a.m.– 10 a.m. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by Interment Services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

We thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

From Jose P. Sablan & Family

Spa shootings could be first test of Georgia hate crimes law

ATLANTA (AP)—The murder case against a white man charged with shooting and killing six women of Asian descent and two other people at Atlanta-area massage businesses this week could become the first big test for Georgia’s new hate crimes law.

Robert Aaron Long, 21, told police that the attacks Tuesday at two spas in Atlanta and another massage business near suburban Woodstock were not racially motivated and claimed to have a sex addiction. Authorities said he apparently lashed out at what he saw as sources of temptation but were still investigating his motive.

Because most of the victims were women of Asian descent, there’s skepticism of that explanation and public clamoring for hate crime charges, especially among the Asian American community, which has faced rising numbers of attacks since the coronavirus pandemic took hold.

But, like many states, the Georgia law enacted last summer does not provide for a standalone hate crime, instead allowing an additional penalty when a person is convicted of another crime.

“It’s not something you get arrested for. It’s a sentence enhancer,” said Pete Skandalakis, a former prosecutor and executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council of Georgia.

The law says an additional penalty can be applied for certain crimes if they are motivated by a victim’s race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, or mental or physical disability. Even before the law passed amid the national reckoning over racial injustice, the pandemic had largely paused court cases, so Skandalakis said he doesn’t believe the rule has been used yet.

A hate crime charge can be included in an indictment or added at some point before trial. If a jury convicts the defendant of the underlying crime, prosecutors can present evidence for a hate crime sentencing enhancement. Defense attorneys can present their own evidence, and the jury deliberates again. If jurors find it’s a hate crime, there is a mandatory enhancement of at least two years in prison and a fine of up to $5,000 for a felony.

The federal government and some other states go further with laws that criminalize bias-motivated violence without requiring a conviction on an underlying crime.

The U.S. Department of Justice could choose to bring federal hate crime charges independently of the state prosecutions. Federal investigators have not yet uncovered evidence to prove Long targeted the victims because of their race, two law enforcement officials told The Associated Press. The officials had direct knowledge of the investigation but were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

World

AS PROTESTS CONTINUE

Striking Myanmar rail workers move out

MANDALAY, Myanmar (AP)—Residents of Myanmar's second-biggest city helped striking railway workers move out of their state-supplied housing Saturday after the authorities said they would have to leave if they kept supporting the protest movement against last month's military coup.

Mandalay residents carried the workers' furniture and other household items to trucks, van and pickup trucks.

The state railway workers last month went on strike as key and early supporters of the civil disobedience movement against the Feb. 1 coup that toppled the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The military regime has sought to force them back to work through intimidation, which included a nighttime, gun-firing patrol last month through their housing area in Mandalay and a raid in the railway workers' housing area in Yangon.

Protests against the coup continued Saturday in cities and town across the country, including in Mandalay and Yangon.

The coup reversed years of slow progress toward democracy in Myanmar after five decades of military rule. In the face of persistent strikes and protests against the takeover, the junta has responded with an increasingly violent crackdown and efforts to severely limit the information reaching the outside world.

Internet access has been severely restricted, private newspapers have been barred from publishing, and protesters, journalists and politicians have been arrested in large numbers.

The independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners has verified 235 deaths and has said the actual total—including ones where verification has been difficult —"is likely much higher." It said it has confirmed that 2,330 people have been arrested or charged since the coup, with 1,980 still detained or remaining charged.

In addition to using lethal force to try to break up demonstrations, the security forces have been carrying out a campaign of harassment, stealing from homes they raid, said the group, which also charged that security forces have used people they arrested as human shields as they sought to break up demonstrations.

Numerous reports on social media, including videos, have shown security forces vandalizing cars parked on the street.

The U.N. agencies UNICEF and UNESCO, along with the private humanitarian group Save the Children, on Friday issued a statement criticizing the occupation of education facilities across Myanmar by security forces as a serious violation of children's rights.

It said security forces have reportedly occupied more than 60 schools and university campuses in 13 states and regions.

"It will exacerbate the learning crisis for almost 12 million children and youth in Myanmar, which was already under tremendous pressure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing widespread school closures," said the statement. "Save the Children, UNESCO and UNICEF call on security forces to vacate occupied premises immediately and ensure that schools and educational facilities are not used by military or security personnel.

"Schools must be not used by security forces under any circumstances," it declared.

Calls for international action to halt the violence continue to mount.

5 nations demand better EU sharing of migration load

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—The interior ministers of the five Mediterranean countries on the front line of mass migration to Europe want their EU partners to share the burden more equitably.

"We can no longer be punished for our geographical position," Malta's Byron Camilleri said Saturday, summing up his position and that of his colleagues from Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Spain after they met in Athens.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and European Commission Vice President Margaritis Schinas joined part of the meeting, Schinas is coordinating the commission's work to revise the European Union's pact on migration and asylum.

Ministers from Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain created a "MED 5" group last year in an effort to present united front and influence the new EU pact.

Their demands are threefold: better cooperation with the countries in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia where most Europe-bound migrants and asylum-seekers come from; greater willingness by other EU member nations to accept newly arrived migrants; and a centralized European repatriation mechanism overseen by the EU's executive commission.

More than a thousand people protested in solidarity with migrants and refugees in the center of Athens on Saturday. The timing was intended to coincide with the officials' meeting.

Southern European countries with extensive coastlines have borne the brunt of arriving asylum-seekers hoping to enter the EU. Most Europe-bound migrants travel by boat on dangerous maritime smuggling routes, either from the Turkish coast to nearby Greek islands or across the Mediterranean from north Africa.

The ministers discussed whether Turkey played an active role in pushing migrants toward Europe in contravention of a 2016 migration-control between the EU and Turkey.

Cyprus' interior minister, Nikos Nouris, said most of the migrants arriving in his country enter from the the Turkish Cypriot-controlled northern part of the island nation. He called for Turkey to accept inspections on its southern shoreline by Frontex, the European border and coast guard agency.

At one point last year, Turkey's president said his government would no longer discourage migrants from trying to cross the border into Greece.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
†Vicente (Ben) Cabrera Attao
JULY 19, 1952- MARCH 26, 2020
We, the family of the late †Vicente Cabrera Attao - lovingly known as "Ben," would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in the Eucharistic Celebration as we commemorate the First Anniversary of our beloved Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather, Son, Brother, Brother-in-Law, and Uncle passing unto eternal life.
Daily mass will be held at Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning March 18 - March 26, 2021 at 6:00am.
On Sunday, March 21st, Mass is at 9:00am.
Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
May our Lord bless each of you.
Un dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Hiimaqis Qe'ciyew'yew.
Wife: Elizabeth Arthur Attao
Children: Ina Attao — Juanda (Karl Ada), Naomi, John Vincent Camacho and Vicente Leon Guerrero,
Kristine Attao — Kristina (Drew Waits - Roman and William), Samuel, James Jr. and Elizabeth Greene,
Catherine Attao and Mark Toves — Joseph Attao, Markel, Theresa, Merrick
and Markus Toves and Raymond Mercado (Davana and Heikuaonaiki)
Sisters: Celina A. Concepcion & Aldebert Concepcion and Family, Maria Ramona "Marlene" A. & Ricardo Balajadia and Family
Extended Family: Florencia Gacutan (Ronald Miraflor) and children

Health & Wellness

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5 reasons to wear a mask even after you're vaccinated

By LIZ SZABO
KAISER HEALTH NEWS

As an emergency physician, Dr. Eugenia South was in the first group of people to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. She received her second dose last week—even before President Joe Biden.

Yet South said she's in no rush to throw away her face mask.

"I honestly don't think I'll ever go without a mask at work again," said South, faculty director of the Urban Health Lab at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. "I don't think I'll ever feel safe doing that."

And although COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective, South plans to continue wearing her mask outside the hospital as well.

Health experts say there are good reasons to follow her example.

"Masks and social distancing will need to continue into the foreseeable future—until we have some level of herd immunity," said Dr. Preeti Malani, chief health officer at the University of Michigan. "Masks and distancing are here to stay."

Malani and other health experts explained five reasons Americans should hold on to their masks:

1 No vaccine is 100% effective.

Large clinical trials found that two doses of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines prevented 95% of illnesses caused by the coronavirus. While those results are impressive, 1 in 20 people are left unprotected, said Dr. Tom Frieden, a former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Malani notes that vaccines were tested in controlled clinical trials at top medical centers, under optimal conditions.

In the real world, vaccines are usually slightly less effective. Scientists use specific terms to describe the phenomenon. They refer to the protection offered by vaccines in clinical trials as "efficacy," while the actual immunity seen in a vaccinated population is "effectiveness."

The effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines could be affected by the way they're handled, Malani said. The genetic material used in mRNA vaccines—made with messenger RNA from the coronavirus—is so fragile that it has to be carefully stored and transported.

Any variation from the CDC's strict guidance could influence how well vaccines work, Malani said.

2 Vaccines don't provide immediate protection.

No vaccine is effective right away, Malani said. It takes about two weeks for the immune system to make the antibodies that block viral infections.

COVID-19 vaccines will take a little longer than other inoculations, such as the flu shot, because both the Moderna and Pfizer products require two doses. The Pfizer shots are given three weeks apart; the Moderna shots, four weeks apart.

In other words, full protection won't arrive until five or six weeks after the first shot. So, a person vaccinated on New Year's Day won't be fully protected until Valentine's Day.

3 COVID-19 vaccines may not prevent you from spreading the virus.

Vaccines can provide two levels of protection. The measles vaccine prevents viruses from causing infection, so vaccinated people don't spread the infection or develop symptoms.

Most other vaccines—including flu shots—prevent people from becoming sick but not from becoming infected or passing the virus to others, said Dr. Paul Offit, who advises the National Institutes of Health and Food and Drug Administration on COVID vaccines.

While COVID vaccines clearly prevent illness, researchers need more time to figure out whether they prevent transmission, too, said Phoenix-based epidemiologist Saskia Popescu, an assistant professor in the biodefense program at George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government.

"We don't yet know if the vaccine protects against infection, or only against illness," said Frieden, now CEO of Resolve to Save Lives, a global public health initiative. "In other words, a vaccinated person might still be able to spread the virus, even if they don't feel sick."

Until researchers can answer that question, Frieden said, wearing masks is the safest way for vaccinated people to protect those around them.

4 Masks protect people with compromised immune systems.

People with cancer are at particular risk from COVID-19. Studies show they're more likely than others to become infected and die from the virus, but may not be protected by vaccines, said Dr. Gary Lyman, a professor at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Cancer patients are vulnerable in multiple ways. People with lung cancer are less able to fight off pneumonia, while those undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatment have weakened immune systems. Leukemia and lymphoma attack immune cells directly, which makes it harder for patients to fight off the virus.

Doctors don't know much about how people with cancer will respond to vaccines, because they were excluded from randomized trials, Lyman said. Only a handful of study participants were diagnosed with cancer after enrolling. Among those people, COVID vaccines protected only 76%.

Although the vaccines appear safe, "prior studies with other vaccines raise concerns that immunosuppressed patients, including cancer patients, may not mount as great an immune response as healthy patients," Lyman said. "For now, we should assume that patients with cancer may not experience the 95% efficacy."

Some people aren't able to be vaccinated.

While most people with allergies can receive COVID vaccines safely, the CDC advises those who have had severe allergic reactions to vaccine ingredients, including polyethylene glycol, to avoid vaccination. The agency also warns people who have had dangerous allergic reactions to a first vaccine dose to skip the second.

Lyman encourages people to continue wearing masks to protect those with cancer and others who won't be fully protected.

5 Masks protect against any strain of the coronavirus, in spite of genetic mutations.

Global health leaders are extremely concerned about new genetic variants of the coronavirus, which appear to be at least 50% more contagious than the original.

So far, studies suggest vaccines will still work against these new strains.

One thing is clear: Public health measures—such as avoiding crowds, physical distancing and masks—reduce the risk of contracting all strains of the coronavirus, as well as other respiratory diseases, Frieden said. For example, the number of flu cases worldwide has been dramatically lower since countries began asking citizens to stay home and wear masks.

"Masks will remain effective," Malani said. "But careful and consistent use will be essential."

The best hope for ending the pandemic isn't to choose between masks, physical distancing and vaccines, Offit said, but to combine them. "The three approaches work best as a team," he said.

COVID-19: Tips to reduce migraines for those susceptible to stress

Schools and workplaces are closed. Social distancing requirements are in place. And people in many cities are being urged to stay home to prevent further spread of COVID-19. The global pandemic has greatly disrupted everyone's lives, creating a lot of stress and anxiety.

Patients with chronic neurologic conditions, and migraines in particular, are especially susceptible to the effects of stress on the brain and the body, according to Joseph Sirven, M.D., a Mayo Clinic neurologist.

"At the end of the day, the same organ that is impacted with migraine headaches is the same organ that you feel and think with. And we know that stress increases the environment for headaches to occur," Dr. Sirven says. "So all of the stress, all of this obsessing, all of this worry about what's going on in the world can have this negative effect that it increases the chance for migraines."

Dr. Sirven offers his top five tips to de-stress at home and reduce the chances of migraines occurring:

Limit exposure to news media.

Care for yourself by eating a healthy diet, staying hydrated and getting enough sleep.

Get some exercise, especially outside.

Focus on the positive.

Meditate, stretch or practice deep breathing.

Dr. Sirven also recommends having sufficient medications available, including "rescue" prescriptions and medication to reduce stress levels or aid with sleep.

"This is the time to make sure you have plenty of medication so you don't have to call anyone for any urgent refills," he says.

Given the current landscape, for patients whose migraines have required emergency intervention, Dr. Sirven suggests developing an action plan for when to call 911. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)***

Check the CDC website for additional updates on COVID-19.For more information and all your COVID-19 coverage, go to the Mayo Clinic News Network and mayoclinic.org.

Life & Style

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Plans solidify for 93rd Oscars: No Zoom, no sweatshirts

With nominations set and just over a month until showtime, details are trickling out about the 93rd Oscars and neither sweatshirts nor Zoom made the cut. "Our plan is that this year's Oscars will look like a movie, not a television show," said show producers Jesse Collins, Stacy Sher and Steven Soderbergh in a statement Friday. They've enlisted Emmy and Tony Award winning director Glenn Weiss to direct the live broadcast on April 25. Although considerably scaled down from a normal year, the producers have said they are committed to holding an in-person event at Los Angeles' Union Station for nominees, presenters and limited guests. There will also be a live component at the Dolby Theatre, which has been home to the Academy Awards since 2001. But unlike the Golden Globes, which combined in-person and Zoom elements in its bicoastal broadcast, the Oscars are not making a virtual element possible for nominees who either can't or don't feel comfortable attending. The producers said they plan to treat the event like an active movie set with on-site COVID safety teams and testing protocols. And, yes, they expect attendees to dress up. The 93rd Oscars will be broadcast live on ABC on April 25 starting at 8 p.m. ET. ***(AP)***

Prince Harry gives advice to grieving children in new book

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Prince Harry has written the foreword for a new book aimed at the children of frontline workers who died in the COVID-19 pandemic, sharing the pain he suffered as a boy after the death of his mother, Princess Diana. Harry wrote that losing his mother at age 12 left "a huge hole inside of me," according to excerpts of the book printed in the Times of London. Diana died in a Paris car accident in August 1997. "Hospital by the Hill," by Chris Connaughton, is the story of a young person whose mother worked at a hospital and died during the pandemic. It is being given to children who have experienced similar losses. "While I wish I was able to hug you right now, I hope this story is able to provide you comfort in knowing that you're not alone," Harry wrote in the forward. "When I was a young boy I lost my mum. At the time, I didn't want to believe it or accept it, and it left a huge hole inside of me. I know how you feel, and I want to assure you that over time that hole will be filled with so much love and support."

Stone tablet marking First Amendment freedoms finds new home

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A four-story, 50-ton marble tablet engraved with the text of the First Amendment, previously displayed on the facade of the now-shuttered Newseum in Washington, will find a new home in Philadelphia across from Independence Hall. The National Constitution Center, which sits in an area of the city billed as America's most historic square mile, will erect the tablet in an atrium overlooking Independence Hall, the UNESCO World Heritage Site where both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were adopted. The district is also home to the Liberty Bell and the First Bank of the United States. The tablet is engraved with the First Amendment, which protects freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly and the right to petition the government. It's a gift from the Freedom Forum, the creator of the Newseum, a museum dedicated to the First Amendment. It was sold to Johns Hopkins University and closed in 2019.

Ancient bronze figurine of bull uncovered in southern Greece

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Heavy rainfall in southern Greece has led to the discovery of a bronze bull figurine believed to have been a votive offering made to the god Zeus in Ancient Olympia as early as 3,000 years ago.

Greece's Culture Ministry said Friday that the small, intact figurine was found after an archaeologist spotted one horn poking out of the ground following recent rainfall in the area.

The excellently preserved figurine was transported to a lab and initial examination indicates it dates from the Geometric period of ancient Greek art, roughly 1050 B.C. to 700 B.C. It is believed to have been a votive offering to Zeus made as part of a sacrifice, as the sediment cleaned from the statuette bore distinct burn marks, the Culture Ministry said.

This undated photo provided by the Greek Culture Ministry on Friday, March 19, 2021 shows an ancient bronze bull figurine that was found in ancient Olympia . Heavy recent rainfall in southern Greece has led to the discovery of a bronze bull figurine believed to have been a votive offering made to the god Zeus in Ancient Olympia as early as 3,000 years ago. (GREEK CULTURE MINISTRY VIA AP)

Thousands of votive offerings are believed to have been made at the altar of Zeus. Many have been found in a thick layer of ash and are exhibited at the archaeological museum in Olympia.

Greek police recover ancient statue of 'exceptional artwork'

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A man has been arrested on suspicion of antiquities smuggling for trying to sell an ancient marble statue of "exceptional artwork" that once likely adorned a temple on Athens' famed Acropolis or the slopes around it, Greek authorities said Friday.

Police said the 5th century B.C. statue was recovered following a months-long police operation that involved an investigation by the Cultural Heritage and Antiquities Department.

Measuring only about 37 centimeters (14.5 inches) high, the statue depicts a seated young man who reclines slightly to the right. The head, arms and most of both legs are missing, and two small holes are visible behind the left shoulder, from which rods would likely have attached the statue to a pediment—the triangular gable-end above the short sides of an ancient temple.

In this Friday, March 19, 2021, photo provided by the Greek Police shows a 5th century B.C. statue about 37 centimeters (14.5 inches), depicting a seated young man who slightly reclines. AP

"It is an exceptional work of art, of the kind not easily found, not even in systematic excavations," archaeologist Dimitris Sourlas said during a presentation Friday at police headquarters in Athens. The statue, he said, could have been part of a larger composition, but more research was needed.

Authorities didn't say why they linked it with the Acropolis area, and what made them suspect it came from a temple—which would narrow down the search for its provenance.

Promising relationship falls victim to miscommunication

DEAR ABBY: Two months ago, I met a lady I will call Amber. We were instantly attracted to each other. The first date went well, and we reached first base (kissing). On the second date, we reached second base (fondling). On the third date, which was also going well, after I finished paying the check for dinner, I asked her if she wanted to continue where we had left off. Amber said no. I was fine with it.

Later that night, when we spoke over the phone, I pointed out, nicely, that she did not even say thank you for dinner, and Amber got offended. I decided to end things after that phone call. I felt she was being disrespectful of my feelings by not listening to what I was saying.

Fast-forward: Her birthday is in two weeks, and I don't know if I should bury the hatchet by dropping her a Happy Birthday text that day because I really did overall like her.

BRAND-NEW IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR BRAND-NEW: Amber may have become offended when, after she declined to proceed with further intimacy, you told her she "hadn't even" thanked you for the dinner. When I read that line, for a moment I wondered if you equated the two and had expected that after buying her dinner you were guaranteed sexual favors in return. The two of you have a significant communication deficit. Contact her again only if you are willing to acknowledge that fact and hope she is willing to work on it with you.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently found out we're expecting our first child. We have been married for five years, and while we are still fairly young, this has been a long time in coming. For both of our families, this will be the first grandchild.

My brother is getting married next month. We live in a different state but plan to fly home for the wedding. My husband says we cannot tell our families about the pregnancy on this trip because we don't want to "overshadow the happy weekend with additional good news." This means we would need to tell them over video chat (not in person), since going home for a separate trip is not an option due to COVID.

While I see his point and certainly don't want to overshadow the wedding, I don't see why we can't tell them a few days before the wedding so that it's in person and I won't have to answer a bunch of questions from close family about why I'm not drinking at the wedding. My brother's fiancee and I do not get along, and I'm not in the wedding party (if that makes a difference). Please advise.

ANONYMOUS MOM-TO-BE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

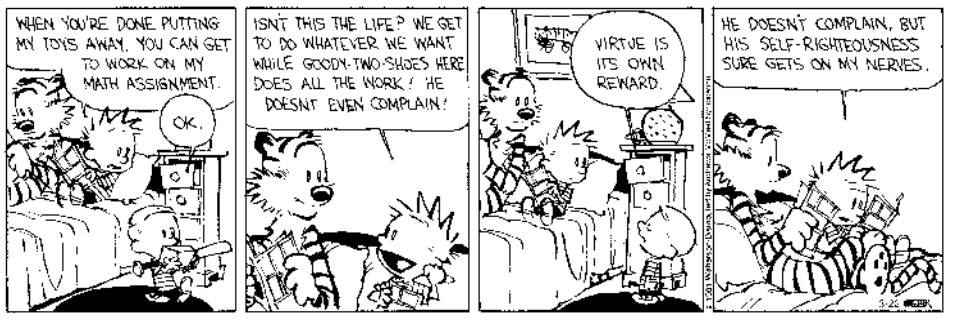
DEAR MOM-TO-BE: I am voting with your husband. Do not upstage your brother and his bride-to-be, tempting as it may be. To do otherwise will take the spotlight off the happy couple and aim it directly at your belly. While this might seem like a welcome opportunity to stick your finger in the eye of a woman you dislike, keep in mind that in a short time she will be family and impossible to avoid. The less friction the better.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

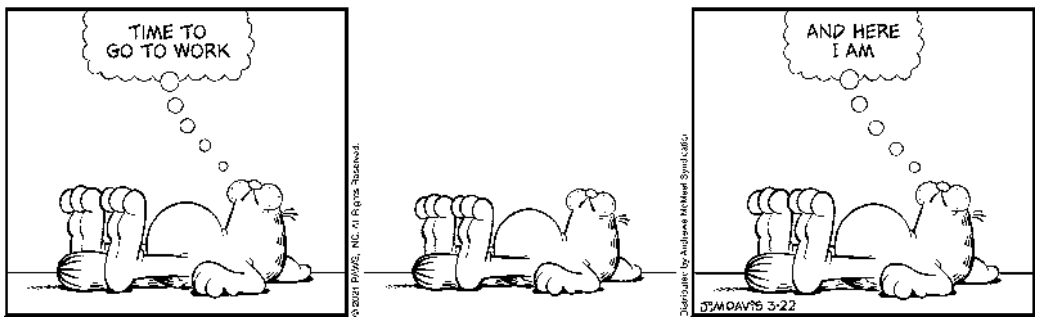
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHEN YOU'RE DONE PUTTING MY TOYS AWAY, YOU CAN GET TO WORK ON MY MATH ASSIGNMENT.
OK.
ISN'T THIS THE LIFE? WE GET TO DO WHATEVER WE WANT WHILE GOODY-TWO-SHOES HERE DOES ALL THE WORK. HE DOESN'T EVEN COMPLAIN!
VIRTUE IS ITS OWN REWARD.
HE DOESN'T COMPLAIN, BUT HIS SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS SURE GETS ON MY NERVES.

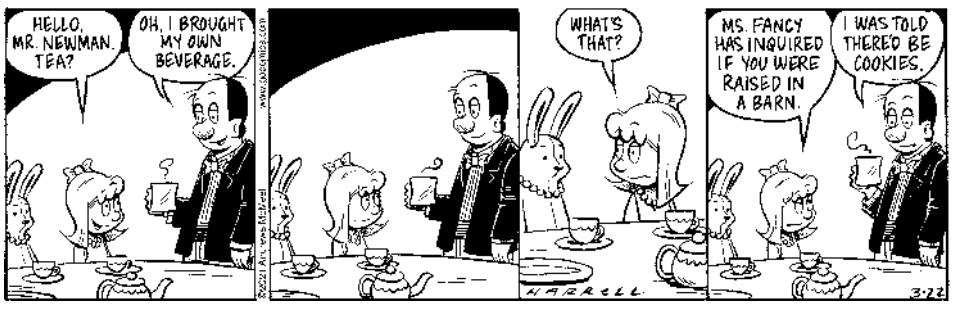
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



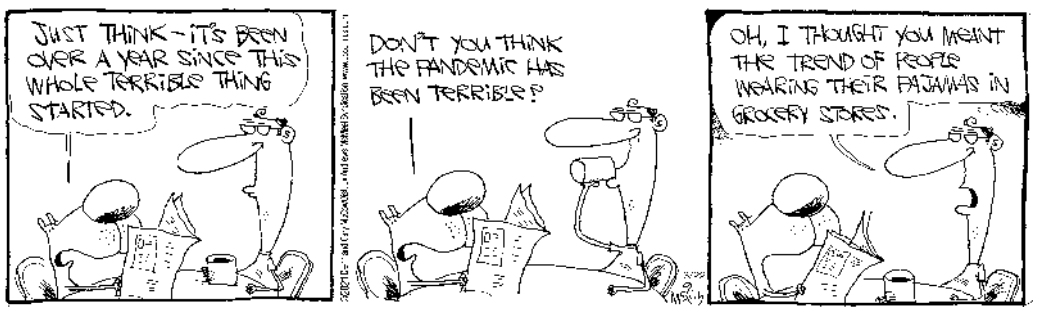
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HELLO, MR. NEWMAN. TEA?
OH, I BROUGHT MY OWN BEVERAGE.
WHAT'S THAT?
MS. FANCY HAS INQUIRED IF YOU WERE RAISED IN A BARN.
I WAS TOLD THERED BE COOKIES.
3-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


JUST THINK - IT'S BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE THIS WHOLE TERRIBLE THING STARTED.
DON'T YOU THINK THE PANDEMIC HAS BEEN TERRIBLE?
OH, I THOUGHT YOU MEANT THE TREND OF PEOPLE WEARING THEIR PAJAMAS IN GROCERY STORES.

CROSSWORD

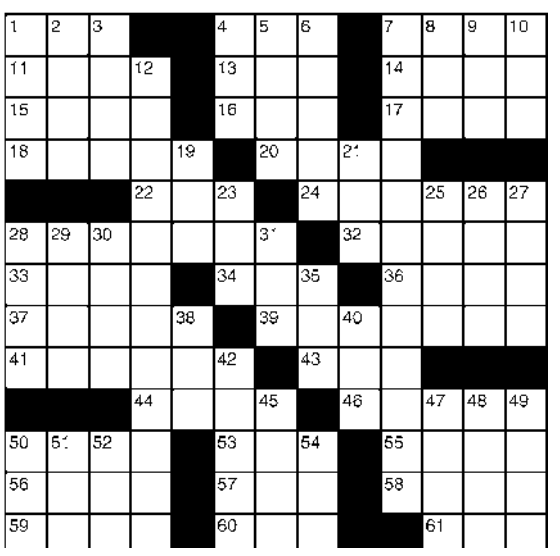
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Terrific"
4 Saloon
7 Pretzel seasoning
11 Grad
13 Rage
14 New Mexico resort
15 Costa —
16 Earl Grey, e.g.
17 Sitarist's music
18 Pandemic face coverings
20 Anti-oxidant berry
22 Consume
24 "For shame!"
28 Best Picture of 1997
32 Quiet partner?
33 "Dream on!"
34 High tennis shot
36 Apple tablet
37 Honey-dew, e.g.
39 Scrabble tile features
41 Fuel for a Rolls
43 Sailor
44 Snare
46 Plains grazers
50 Video-streaming site
53 Purchase
55 Spiced tea
56 Whitaker's Oscar-winning role
57 Mined-over matter
58 Basil or thyme
59 Valley
60 Workout unit
61 Ninny

DOWN
1 Crop-growing tract
2 Inter —
3 Tampa Bay team, for short
4 Morsel
5 Region
6 Flinch, say
7 Hit the jackpot
8 Small battery
9 Journal
10 Airport screening org.
12 Hit the jackpot
19 — Diego
21 Nile reptile
23 Up to
25 Carton sealer
26 Cicatrix
27 Sneakers brand
28 Pack (down)
29 "Under-stood"
30 Lean to one side
31 Army rank (Abbr.)
35 Wager
38 Neither here — there
40 Indent key
42 Parts partner
45 Chaste
47 The Mets' old home
48 Rowboat needs
49 Pen tips
50 Pos-sessed
51 Holly-wood's Thurman
52 Like Abner or Wayne
54 "Uh-huh"

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 03/22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Reese Witherspoon, 45; Elvis Stojko, 49; Bob Costas, 69; William Shatner, 90.

Happy Birthday: Look inward, evaluate your position and make adjustments at home to accommodate what you are striving to achieve this year. Discipline, hard work and reaching out to people who can contribute or help you excel will play roles in your success and overall happiness. Love and romance will lead to a lifestyle change that enhances your life. Your numbers are 2, 9, 23, 26, 31, 34, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A passionate approach to life, love and learning will lead to opportunity. Choose to do what's best for you instead of putting all your energy into helping someone get ahead. Physical fitness will encourage better health and emotional well-being. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Refuse to let your emotions step in when discipline is required. Do your homework, and you'll discover a reason to pause before you start something new. Discuss ideas with anyone your decision might affect before you move forward. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Ease into anything that can influence your position, reputation or status. Educate yourself and make personal adjustments before you make a move. An opportunity is worthwhile only if it's something that will improve your life. Choose peace of mind over money. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Express your feelings and clear up any uncertainty that prevails. Use your imagination, and be descriptive regarding your plans, but don't be misleading. Take better care of your health and emotional well-being. Listen carefully; do your best to avoid an argument. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Personal planning will lead to better health, greater confidence and enthusiastic support from someone who shares your concerns and long-term goals. Incorporate physical fitness and a nutritious diet into your everyday routine, and you'll feel great about what you achieve. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Stop pondering what to do; take a leap of faith. Let your heart lead the way, and allow the people you know and trust to take part in helping you reach your destination. Sharing with someone special will make your life easier. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Refuse to let an emotional incident deter your efficiency. Focus on what you need to achieve, not on what someone does or says. Personal growth will help you let go of old habits that stunt your ability to excel. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Try doing things differently, and you will discover things about yourself that will help you get ahead. Tidy up loose ends, and make a point to indulge in something that brings you peace of mind and the desire to start something new. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Less talk and more action will help you get where you want to go. Put a little muscle behind your dreams, and you'll achieve what you set out to do. Self-improvement will enhance your appearance and invite compliments. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Protect your physical and emotional health. It's essential to take a break and assess your situation before you bring about change. Don't get angry if someone doesn't want to head in the same direction as you. Do your own thing. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A creative outlet will ease stress. Spend time with someone who shares your passion. A plan will develop that offers support and encouragement to move forward at warp speed. Added discipline will get you where you want to go. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A change will help you get on with your life. Consider the things that make you happy and head in that direction. Surround yourself with people who bring out the best in you. It's time for new beginnings. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, demonstrative and persistent. You are passionate and dedicated.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪stars: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9			5		1	8	
3		2			4		5	6
	7					2		4
			2		8		6	
7								2
	8		6		3			
9		7					2	
5	4		3			6		9
	2	1		8			7	

Difficulty Level ★ 3/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	3	5	9	7	1	6	8	4
8	6	7	2	3	4	1	5	9
1	9	4	6	5	8	3	2	7
3	5	8	1	9	2	7	4	6
9	4	6	3	8	7	2	1	5
7	2	1	4	6	5	9	3	8
5	8	9	7	2	3	4	6	1
4	7	2	8	1	6	5	9	3
6	1	3	5	4	9	8	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DRESSAGE Solution: 7 letters

R	W	J	A	C	K	E	T	W	T	E	M	L	E	H
C	E	A	P	A	S	S	A	G	E	B	F	L	A	H
T	M	L	R	P	A	L	C	I	U	J	D	D	T	E
R	E	U	A	M	K	H	K	C	R	D	U	A	E	Q
A	X	R	I	X	B	A	K	E	A	S	A	M	M	U
N	T	A	N	D	A	L	U	S	I	A	N	E	P	E
S	E	O	P	M	E	T	O	H	C	Ⓣ	E	R	T	S
I	N	S	P	S	R	M	I	O	Ⓐ	I	R	I	N	T
T	S	G	R	O	O	M	N	Ⓞ	D	E	A	C	P	R
I	I	B	P	E	L	A	Ⓒ	T	N	S	E	A	R	I
O	O	S	R	C	T	L	Y	I	E	L	D	N	H	A
N	N	C	R	I	H	S	A	A	V	S	I	T	Y	N
S	S	O	S	E	D	A	A	G	O	T	R	O	T	E
S	P	U	R	S	I	L	P	M	L	I	P	I	H	W
S	L	C	R	O	W	N	E	S	G	C	H	A	M	P

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Airs, American, Andalusian, Arena, Bridle, Buckles, Champ, Chaps, Coat, Crops, Crown, Equestrian, Extensions, Gait, Gallop, Girth, Glove, Groom, Half, Halt, Helmet, Jacket, Jumps, Lusitano, Masters, Medium, Pads, Passage, Rein, Relaxation, Rhythm, Ride, Saddle, Sport, Spurs, Straps, Stretch, Tack, Tempo, Tempt, Ties, Transitions, Trot, Walk, Warmblood, Whip, Yield

Last Friday's Answer: Sangria

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

LeBron James injures right ankle in Lakers' loss to Hawks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeBron James left in the second quarter with a high right ankle sprain that the Lakers said will sideline him indefinitely, and Los Angeles went on to fall 99-94 to the Atlanta Hawks on Saturday.

Two hours after the game, the Lakers announced that James is out indefinitely. The defending NBA champions already are without All-NBA big man Anthony Davis, who has missed 14 consecutive games with a right calf injury and likely won't play again until April.

"Nothing angers and saddens me more than not being available to and for my teammates!" James tweeted later Saturday. "I'm hurt inside and out right now. The road back from recovery begins now. Back soon like I never left."

James was hurt when he rolled his ankle under Solomon Hill, who was called for a foul as he reached awkwardly for a steal. The 36-year-old superstar screamed and fell to the court clutching at his ankle, yet he got up and briefly stayed in the game.

After the injury, James hit a corner 3-pointer that extended his NBA-record streak of games with at least 10 points to 1,036, but he called a timeout and left the court shortly afterward. James knocked over a chair in frustration as he went to the locker room.

John Collins had 27 points and a season-high 16 rebounds, and Trae Young added 14 points and 11 assists for the Hawks. They opened an eight-game trip with their eighth straight victory under new coach Nate McMillan — but only after their defending champion opponents lost their 17-time All-Star to an injury that could shake the NBA's balance of power if it turns out to be serious.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, center, grimaces as he trips and injures himself over Atlanta Hawks forward Solomon Hill, bottom, during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, March 20, 2021, in Los Angeles.

76ers 129, Kings 105

In Philadelphia, Tobias Harris scored 23 of his 29 points in the first half and fell just short of a triple-double to lead short-handed Philadelphia past Sacramento.

The Eastern Conference-leading 76ers played without starters Joel Embiid, Ben Simmons and Seth Curry. Embiid has missed four straight games with a bruised left knee and is expected to be re-evaluated late this week. Simmons experienced knee soreness at the morning shootaround and was a surprise late scratch. Curry injured his left ankle Wednesday.

Shake Milton had 28 points, and Danny Green added 18 for Philadelphia. Harris also had 11 rebounds and eight assists.

Buddy Hield scored 25 points for Sacramento.

Bucks 120, Spurs 113

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 26 points and a season-high 15 assists, leading Milwaukee past San Antonio for its sixth straight victory.

Khris Middleton added 23 points, and Jrue Holiday had 21. Antetokounmpo grabbed eight rebounds, barely missing a triple-double.

Lonnie Walker scored a career-high 31 points for the Spurs.

Clippers 125, Hornets 98

In Los Angeles, Paul George had 21 points and 10 assists, Kawhi Leonard added 17 points and the Los Angeles Clippers emerged from two inconsistent weeks with a big victory over Charlotte.

Terance Mann scored 16 points and Lou Williams had 15 for the Clippers, who went 23 for 23 from the free throw line during just their third win in eight games. Los Angeles bounced back from blowout losses to New Orleans and Dallas in the previous six days with an overwhelming effort against the Hornets, who lost their third straight.

Miles Bridges scored a season-high 21 points for the Hornets. LaMelo Ball scored 13 points for Charlotte in the rookie sensation's second straight game in his native Los Angeles area.

Grizzlies 111, Warriors 103

In Memphia, Tenn., Jonas Valanciunas and Dillon Brooks scored 19 points each, Valanciunas added 15 rebounds and Memphis beat Golden State to split the two-game set.

Brandon Clarke added 16 points, and Ja Morant had 14 points and eight assists, including six points in Memphis' closing 10-3 run.

Jordan Poole led the Warriors with 26 points, connecting on 10 of 21 shots.

The Warriors, already short-handed without guard Stephen Curry and frontline players James Wiseman and Eric Pascall, were dealt another setback with the absence of Kevon Looney. Looney, who played well against Valanciunas on Friday, was the latest to fall under the league's health and safety protocol.

Spectators from abroad to be barred from Tokyo Olympics

TOKYO (AP)—At last it's official after countless unsourced news reports and rumors: spectators from abroad will be barred from the postponed Tokyo Olympics when they open in four months.

The decision was announced Saturday after an online meeting of the International Olympic Committee, the Japanese government, the Tokyo government, the International Paralympic Committee, and local organizers.

Officials said the risk was too great to admit ticket holders from overseas during a pandemic. The Japanese public has also opposed fans from abroad. Several surveys have shown that up to 80% oppose holding the Olympics, and a similar percentage opposed fans from overseas attending.

Japan has attributed about 8,800 deaths to COVID-19 and has controlled the virus better than most countries.

"In order to give clarity to ticket holders living overseas and to enable them to adjust their travel plans at this stage, the parties on the Japanese side have come to the conclusion that they will not be able to enter into Japan at the time of the Olympic and Paralympic Games," the Tokyo organizing committee said in a statement.

Organizers said 600,000 tickets were sold to fans from outside Japan. They have promised refunds, but this will be determined by so-called Authorized Ticket Resellers that handle sales outside Japan. These dealers charge fees of up to 20% above the ticket price. It is not clear if the fees will be refunded.

Toshiro Muto, the CEO of the organizing committee, said organizers were not responsible for money lost on flights or hotel reservations. He said these did not involve any "contract arrangement with Tokyo."

Organizing committee President Seiko Hashimoto, who appeared in seven Olympics as an athlete — she won bronze in speedskating in 1992—said there was pressure to wait longer to make a decision. But she said fans could now plan. She also lamented the move.

"So the fact that spectators are not able to attend the games from abroad—that is very disappointing and it's regrettable," she said. "It was an unavoidable decision."

IOC President Thomas Bach called it a "difficult decision."

"We have to take decisions that may need sacrifice from everybody," he said.

Muto seemed to rule out fans entering who may have received tickets from deep-pocketed sponsors.

"If they are part of the operation of the games, if they are somewhat involved in the operation then there is still a possibility they may be able to enter into Japan," Muto said. "But solely as spectators for watching games — no, they will not be allowed to make an entry."

The financial burden of lost ticket sales falls on Japan. The local organizing committee budget called for $800 million income from ticket sales, the third largest income source in the privately financed budget. Any shortfall in the budget will have to be made up by Japanese government entities.

"The ticketing revenue will be in the decline," Muto said. "That is very clear at this point."

Muto also hinted at more cuts for people on the periphery of the Olympics. He also said volunteers from overseas would "be dealt with in the same manner" but said details would be forthcoming later.

"But as far as other people related to the games or whether we should maintain the same number — perhaps we will have to reduce the number. That is the consensus. That is the premise," he said.

Overall, Japan is officially spending $15.4 billion to organize the Olympics. Several government audits say the actual cost may be twice that much. All but $6.7 billion is public money, and a University of Oxford study says these are the most expensive Olympics on record.

About 4.45 million tickets were sold to Japan residents. Organizers are expected next month to announce the capacity at venues, which now will be populated by only local residents.

The ban on fans from abroad comes just days before the Olympic torch relay starts Thursday from Fukushima prefecture in northeastern Japan. It will last for 121 days, crisscross Japan with 10,000 runners, and is to end on July 23 at the opening ceremony at the National Stadium in Tokyo.

The relay will be a test for the Olympics and Paralympics, which will involve 15,400 athletes entering Japan. They will be tested before leaving home, tested upon arrival in Japan, and tested frequently while they reside in a secure "bubble" in the Athletes Village alongside Tokyo Bay, or at venues or training facilities.

Athletes will not be required to be vaccinated to enter Japan, but many will be.

In the midst of Saturday's meeting, Bach and others were given a reminder about earthquake-prone northeastern Japan — and Japan in general.

A strong earthquake shook Tokyo and triggered a tsunami warning as Bach and others made introductory remarks before the virtual meeting. The strength was put a 7.0 by the U.S. Geological Survey and the location was in northeastern Japan, an area hit by a huge earthquake and tsunami in 2011. About 18,000 were killed in that tragedy 10 years ago.

"I think the screen is shaking. Have you noticed the screen is shaking," Tamayo Marukawa, Japan's Olympic minister, said as she made her presentation from Tokyo talking remotely to Bach visible on a screen in Switzerland. "We're actually in the midst of an earthquake right now."

Officials there said there were no immediate reports of damage.

No. 14 Abilene Christian ousts 'Horns, 53-52

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Joe Pleasant slowed his breath and calmed himself.

In the most pressure-packed moment of his college career for Abilene Christian, Pleasant's two free throws were perfect from a spot where he'd struggled in the past.

When he intercepted a final desperation pass from Texas, then Pleasant and the rest of his teammates erupted in a celebration that spilled off the court and nearly into the stands.

Another double-digit seed is moving on in the NCAA Tournament, and this one at the expense of the flagship school in Abilene Christian's home state.

"We just beat the University of Texas. Little ol' Abilene Christian out in West Texas built a program that went toe to toe with University of Texas and it's an incredible story," Wildcats coach Joe Golding said. "It's what March is about."

Abilene Christian and its frantic, havoc-causing defense bounced coach Shaka Smart and Texas out of the NCAA Tournament in the first round yet again, as the 14th-seeded Wildcats stunned the third-seeded Longhorns 53-52 on Saturday night.

Pleasant, a 58.8% foul shooter on the season, made a pair of free throws with 1.2 seconds left, and the Wildcats shocked their in-state rivals in the first meeting between the schools.

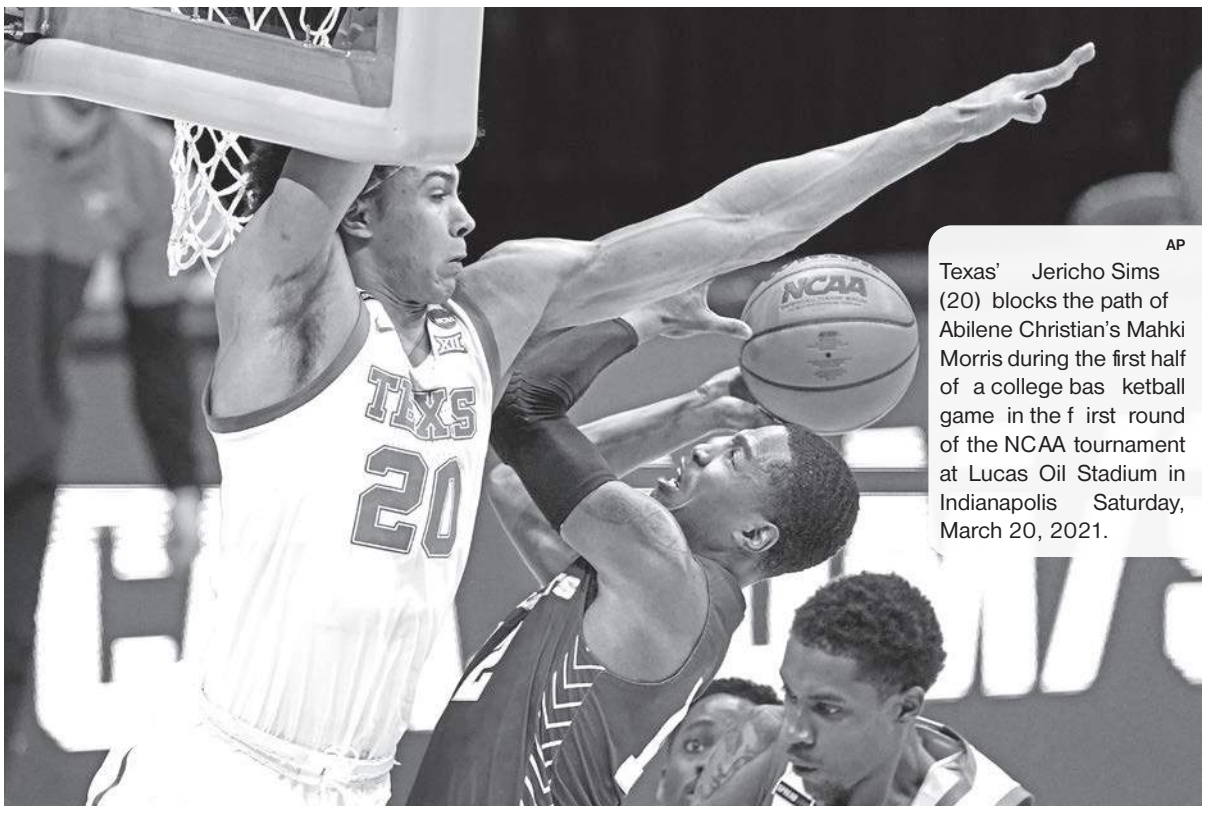
Pulling off one final upset in a first round filled with two years' worth of excitement, Abilene Christian became the fourth team seeded 13th or lower to reach the round of 32 in this NCAA Tournament, joining 15th-seeded Oral Roberts and No. 13 seeds Ohio and North Texas.

"We needed March Madness, man. We needed some type of normalcy to our country," Golding said. "We needed people to fill out brackets. We needed people to cheer for the underdog."

There was plenty of cheering for the Wildcats by their fans clad in purple as they caused all kinds of headaches for the bigger, more talented Longhorns and got just enough offense to pull off their first NCAA Tournament victory in their second appearance.

Pleasant finished with 11 points as did Coryon Mason for the Wildcats. Abilene Christian was blown out by Kentucky two years ago when it made its first trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Now, the Wildcats will face No. 11 seed UCLA in the second round Monday.



AP

Texas' Jericho Sims (20) blocks the path of Abilene Christian's Mahki Morris during the first half of a college bas ketball game in the f irst round of the NCAA tournament at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis Saturday, March 20, 2021.

BYU 73, UCLA 62

In Indianapolis, Johnny Juzang poured in 27 points in his second big game of the NCAA Tournament, Jules Bernard provided a big second-half lift, and No 11 seed UCLA beat sixth-seeded BYU.

Bernard finished with 16 points and Jaime Jaquez Jr. added 13 for the Bruins (19-9), who survived a First Four scare from Michigan State and will now play for a spot in the Sweet 16.

It was the first win for UCLA in regulation since handling Utah on Feb. 25.

Michigan 82, Texas Southern 66

In West Lafayette, Ind., Juwan Howard won his first NCAA Tournament game since taking over as Michigan's coach, guiding Mike Smith and the top-seeded Wolverines past Texas Southern.

Smith scored 18 points and Hunter Dickinson added 16 as Michigan rolled into the second round without Isaiah Livers, who is out with a foot injury. Eli Brooks and Brandon Johns Jr. had 11 points apiece.

Howard is back in the tournament for the first time since his stellar playing career with Michigan, including back-to-back Final Four appearances in 1992 and 1993. It's his second season in charge, but the NCAA Tournament was canceled last year because of the pandemic.

LSU 76, St. Bonaventure 61

In Bloomington, Ind., freshman Cameron Thomas scored 27 points in another impressive performance and his LSU teammates provided the rebounding muscle, leading the eighth-seeded Tigers past ninth-seeded St. Bonaventure.

LSU (19-9) can reach its second straight Sweet 16 if it beats Michigan.

Darius Days and Aundre Hyatt each had 13 points and Trendon Watford had 11. Days and Watford also had 11 rebounds each while Hyatt grabbed 10. The Tigers have won five of six.

Jaren Holmes scored 18 points and Osun Osunniyi had 15 points and nine rebounds for St. Bonaventure (16-5).

Colorado 96, Georgetown 73

In Indianapolis, Colorado used an early 3-point barrage to parlay its highest seeding ever into a win over Georgetown and coach Patrick Ewing.

Led by freshman Jabari Walker's 5-for-5 shooting clinic from 3-point range, the fifth-seeded Buffs (23-8) made 16 3-pointers and shot 64% from long range.

Walker missed only one of his 10 shots on his way to a career-best 24 points, and D'Shawn Schwartz (18 points) made four of his five 3s in the first half to put Colorado into cruise control. The Buffs made the round of 32 for only the third time since the brackets expanded to 64 teams in 1985. They will face fourth-seeded Florida State.

Florida State 64, UNC Greensboro 54

In Indianapolis, RaiQuan Gray scored 17 points and Florida State began what it hopes will be another deep run under coach Leonard Hamilton, holding off 13th-seeded UNC Greensboro.

The Seminoles, who reached the Elite Eight and the Sweet 16 in the previous two tournaments, allowed the Spartans to hang around deep into the second half thanks to an uneven offensive performance.

Florida State went 0 for 9 from 3-point range, winning a game without a made 3 for the first time since February 2018. The Seminoles still managed to shoot 50% overall.

Maryland 63, UConn 54

In West Lafayette, Ind., Eric Ayala scored 23 points and 10th-seeded Maryland clamped down on defense down the stretch to beat No. 7 seed UConn.

The 10th-seeded Terrapins held UConn to 32% shooting to overcome the Huskies' strong physical game. Maryland was outrebounded 40-29 but its defense carried the Terps to a second-round matchup against second-seeded Alabama.

Maryland (17-13) shot 51% for the game and converted 9 of 18 from behind the arc.

Aaron Wiggins had 14 points and Donta Scott 12 for Maryland.

Alabama 68, Iona 55

In Indianapolis, Herb Jones scored 20 points and second-seeded Alabama pried open a tight game to beat coach Rick Pitino's underdogs from Iona. Jones had a steal and layup that highlighted an 11-0 run and gave Alabama (25-6) breathing room at 54-46 after the teams seesawed with the lead through much of the second half.

Even though he came in with his highest seeding ever — a 15 — Pitino came to Indy with eight suits and at least a glimmer of hope he might use more than one.

WEST

Gonzaga 98, Norfolk State 55

In Indianapolis, Corey Kispert scored 15 of his 23 points by halftime and No. 1 overall seed Gonzaga rolled in its opener, beating Norfolk State.

Anton Watson had 17 points on 7-for-7 shooting for the Bulldogs (27-0), who shook off a slow few opening minutes and easily handled the 16th-seeded Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference champions.

Next up for the undefeated Zags is eighth-seeded Oklahoma in the second round of the West Region.

Gonzaga led by 22 points before the break and kept stretching the lead after halftime. It has won 31 straight dating to last season.

Oklahoma 72, Missouri 68

In Indianapolis, Austin Reaves scored 23 points, Brady Manek added 19 and Oklahoma slipped by ninth-seeded Missouri.

The eighth-seeded Sooners (16-10) are on to the second round for fourth time in the last six tournaments.

The Sooners pulled out to an eight-point lead with 1:08 left behind Reaves' free-throw shooting, but Dru Smith made two 3-pointers in the final minute to keep the pressure on and pull Missouri within 70-67 with 46.7 left.

Smith led the Tigers (16-10) with 20 points.

Creighton 63, UC Santa Barbara 62

In Indianapolis, Christian Bishop made both ends of a one-and-one with 16 seconds left to give fifth-seeded Creighton the lead, and the Bluejays hung on to beat 12th-seeded UC Santa Barbara.

Creighton's turbulent season, which included a one-game suspension for coach Greg McDermott after he made a racially insensitive remark in the locker room, continues Monday in the West Region when the Bluejays (21-8) face 13th-seeded Ohio.

Bishop was fouled by Amadou Sow on the floor after grabbing an offensive rebound and went to the line with the Gauchos (22-5) up 62-61.

The junior came into the game making 57% from the line, but dropped in both, barely touching the rim.

Ohio 62, Virginia 58

In Bloomington, Ind., Virginia's unusual title defense ended with another upset loss, falling 62-58 to Jason Preston and Ohio.

The fourth-seeded Cavaliers struggled to score during a key stretch in the second half and shot 35% from the field for the game. Virginia became the first No. 1 seed to drop its opening game in the NCAA Tournament when it lost to UMBC in 2018, but it used the setback as motivation in its run to the championship in 2019.

Last year's NCAA Tournament was canceled because of the pandemic, delaying the Cavaliers' title defense. They just arrived in Indiana on Friday because of COVID-19 issues, and now they are heading home again.

Preston and Ben Vander Plas delivered for Ohio (17-7) after leading the Bobcats to the Mid-American Conference Tournament title.

Southern California 72, Drake 56

In Indianapolis, Evan Mobley had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and No. 6 seed Southern California used smothering defense to beat Drake.

Mobley, a 7-foot freshman forward and AP second-team All-American expected to be a lottery pick if he declares for the draft, made 7 of 15 field goals and blocked three shots.

Isaiah Mobley scored 15 points and Drew Peterson added 14 for USC (23-7), which advanced to play No. 3 seed Kansas in the second round on Monday.

Kansas 73, Eastern Washington 84

In Indianapolis, David McCormack returned from his COVID-19-caused hiatus just in time to rescue No. 3 seed Kansas, piling up 22 points and nine rebounds as the slow-starting Jayhawks rallied from a 10-point second-half deficit to beat No. 14 seed Eastern Washington.

Ochai Agbaji scored 21 points, Marcus Garrett fought foul trouble to add 20 and Dajuan Harris Jr. had 13 for the Jayhawks (21-8).

Iowa 86, Grand Canyon 74

In Indianapolis, Iowa got 24 points from Luka Garza and avoided the early NCAA Tournament exit that befell other high seeds, beating Grand Canyon.

The second-seeded Hawkeyes (22-8) used a strong shooting display to advance.

Iowa shot the Antelopes and their boisterous fans back to the desert, hitting 54% from the floor while going 10 of 22 from behind the arc.

Joe Wieskamp added 16 points to help lead the Hawkeyes into the next round Monday against Oregon, which advanced after Virginia Commonwealth became the first team to bow out of the bracket due to a positive COVID-19 test.

Giants sign Kenny Golladay to 4-year, $80Mdeal

By TOM CANAVAN
AP SPORTS WRITER

AP
In this Oct. 18, 2020, file photo, Detroit Lions wide receiver Kenny Golladay (19) celebrates a reception during the second half of an NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars in Jacksonville, Fla.

The New York Giants' anemic offensive is adding quite possibly the best free agent receiver on the market.

The Giants on Saturday signed former Detroit Lions star Kenny Golladay to a four-year contract worth roughly $80 million in the hopes of giving quarterback Daniel Jones a big-threat receiver.

Golloday spent three days with the Giants as the two sides got to know each other and the team's medical staff got a chance to examine the 27-year-old, who was limited to five games last season by a hip flexor problem.

Golladay said he was impressed with what coach Joe Judge and offensive coordinator Jason Garrett told him about the offense, adding the decision to sign was a no-brainer.

"This team is going to get a competitor, a guy who is going to come and work," Golladay said. "He is going to try to push other guys and have fun with it. You know, I want to have fun while I'm doing this. That's what I'm doing it for. (I'm) just a playmaker."

His statistics are a testament to that.

A third-round draft choice in 2017, Golladay played his first four seasons with the Lions. He appeared in 47 games with 39 starts. He caught 183 passes for 3,068 yards and 21 touchdowns, including a league-high 11 scoring catches in 2019.

Golladay had 20 receptions for 338 yards and two TDs last season. The previous two seasons, he had more than 1,000 yards receiving in each campaign and 16 touchdown catches overall.

The Giants' top three receivers last season combined for only seven TD catches. Darius Slayton had 50 rceptions for a team-high 751 yards and three touchdowns. Sterling Shepard had a team-high 66 catches for 656 yards and three touchdowns. Tight end Evan Engram had 66 catches for 654 yards and one touchdown.

All three are returning to one of the NFL's lowest scoring offenses, along with running back Saquon Barkley, who was lost for the season in the second game with a major knee injury.

Golladay said the Giants looked at his hip and it's fine.

Several Giants players reached out to Golladay, including Jones, who was the No. 6 overall pick in the 2019 draft.

"He's still kind of fresh in the league, a little bit," Golladay said of Jones. "I kind of want to grow with him. You know, I'm still growing as a player and I feel like me and him can do some good things."

Some teams had concerns about Golladay because he complained about the Lions not giving him a new contract and he tweeted his approval after coach Matt Patricia was fired last season.

"They just wanted to lay eyes on me, taking a different approach about this whole process," Golladay said of the Giants having questions about him. "It kind of worked out for both sides. I was able to come in and see what they're all about. I was able to see how the facility was. They had a chance to pick my brain, and I think it worked out pretty smooth."

The Giants posted a 6-10 record last season, losing the NFC East to Washington (7-9) on the final night of the regular season.

JIN

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Department of Lands and Natural Resource Secretary Tony Benavente topped the Seniors Flight with a 2-over-par 74 followed by Joseph Sablan who scored a 4-over-par 76. Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho made the Top 3 with a 5-over-par 77.

In an interview with NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico, he said the tournament, which was postponed for the last three years, turned out to be a great success. The fundraiser garnered over $16,000 for the construction of a new campus following the destruction brought to the former campus by Super Typhoon Yutu back in 2018.

Despite the many changes made in order to comply with the new normal as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, NMC was still able to host a successful tourney, Eliptico added.

Some of new changes include relocating the banquet outdoors, implementation of masks, social distancing, three temperature checkpoints upon entrance, and providing hand sanitizers all around.

Eliptico said despite the recent surge of community cases from an identified community cluster, NMC was adamant about pushing forward with the event after three years of postponements.

Eliptico stressed that everything was made possible through the help of its sponsors who have contributed to the foundation's fundraiser tirelessly for the past 16 years.

Major sponsors for NMC's 16th Annual Golf Tournament include Bank of Guam, Blackwood Furniture, Dial Rent-to-Own, Express Financial, IT&E, Island Training Solutions, J.C.T Enterprises, Inc., KZMI FM, LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort, Marpac, Power 99, Saipan Computer Services, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
Ki Soo Kim has gained access to the Championship Flight after winning first place in the A Flight of the Northern Marianas College's 16th Annual Golf Tournament held at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort last Saturday.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
Northern Marianas College interim president Frankie Eliptico gives the opening remarks during the banquet for the NMC's 16th Annual Golf Tournament held at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort last Saturday.

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cual, and Southern United's Joannah Carreon, Amzad Khan, Gabi Race, and Weiping Chen.

During the course, participants discussed basic soccer knowledge needed to develop a player at the grassroots level.

The coaches also took part in an outdoor practical session where instructors introduced a basic training plan that participants may use as a reference in the future.

According to NMIFA, the skills, techniques, and understanding taught during the course must be acquired incrementally from a younger age.

At U14, CNMI players often lag behind as compared to other national players across the East Asian Football Federation. Through the course, NMIFA aims to provide these essential skills and knowledge at a younger age, added the CNMI's soccer body.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coaches partake in outdoor practical sessions and introduced basic training plans that participants may use as a reference in the future during the Northern Marianas Islands Football Association's Grassroots Kids Leader Course for the Spring 2021 Season last week.

LeBron James injures right ankle in Lakers' loss to Hawks

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

No. 14 Abilene Christian ousts 'Horns, 53-52

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Jin tops NMC golf tourney

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Veteran golfer Feng Chun Jin bagged first place in the Championship Flight of the Northern Marianas College's 16th Annual Foundation Golf Tournament held last Saturday at the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Jin, who has joined countless golf tourneys in the CNMI for the past nine years, topped all foes in the tournament's premier division with a 2-under-par 70. Jin was awarded a $500 cash prize.

Jin's best hole of the tournament was downhill hole No. 15. Jin was able to score an eagle after three chip strokes to complete the par-5 hole.

Placing second in the Championship Flight was Gi Yeong Kim with a 3-over-par 75 followed by J.J. Atalig who completed the Top 3 with a 4-over-par 76.

In the A Flight of the men's division, Ki Soo Kim defeated all comers with a 2-under-par 70 and was welcomed into the Champions Flight. Following Kim was Ned Norita who finished with a 3-over-par 75. Completing the Top 3 was Victor Salas who finished with a 7-over-par 79.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
Feng Chun Jin topped the Championship Flight of the Men's division during the Northern Marianas College's 16th Annual Golf Tournament held at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort last Saturday.

In the B Flight, Bill Quitano bagged first place with a 4-over-par 76 to gain access into the A Flight. Alvin Salas finished a close second behind a 7-over-par 79 followed by Aaron Benavente who completed the tournament with an 8-over-par 80.

Peng Chang Wu took first in the C Flight to gain entrance into the B Flight with 9-over-par 81. Isaac Aguon came in second with a 13-over-par 85, while Joshua Atalig rounded up the Top 3 with a 16-over-par 88.

In the Ladies Flight, Sun Suk Kim landed first place with a 9-over-par 81 followed by Yuko Togawa who finished with a 10-over-par 82. Completing the Top 3 was Gil Ah Kim Yoon who finished with a 12-over-par 84.

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KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
Sun Suk Kim placed first in the Ladies Flight during the Northern Marianas College's 16th Annual Golf Tournament held at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort last Saturday.

23 complete NMIFA Grassroots course

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A total of 23 individuals successfully completed the Northern Marianas Islands Football Association's Grassroots Kids Leader Course for the Spring 2021 Season last week.

The one-day course was held at the NMI Soccer Training Center with course instructors Jershwin Angeles, Angie Ito, Irish Pagarao, and technical director Michiteru Mita.

The course aims to further hone the skills of youth players, especially those who are being groomed to play for the CNMI national squads.

The participants were Kanoa Football Club's Ian Lubao, Daniell Pablo, Leilani Pangelinan, Melanie Santos, Edward Calvo, Matansa Football Club's Tawny Barcinas, Jace Pineda, and Hojin Woo, MP United's Tomoko Bogdan, Shawna Brennfleck, Gene Weaver, Whit Altizer, Paire's Ivan Ilmov, Miles Borja, Patty Coleman, TaAnn Kabua-Demapan, and Zhi Peng Lin, TanHoldings' John Guiller Canape, Reginald Pas-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Northern Marianas Islands Football Association teaches valuable football skills to youth players who are being groomed to play for the CNMI national squads during the association's Grassroots Kids Leader Course for the Spring 2021 Season last week.